

PEN AND PENCIL

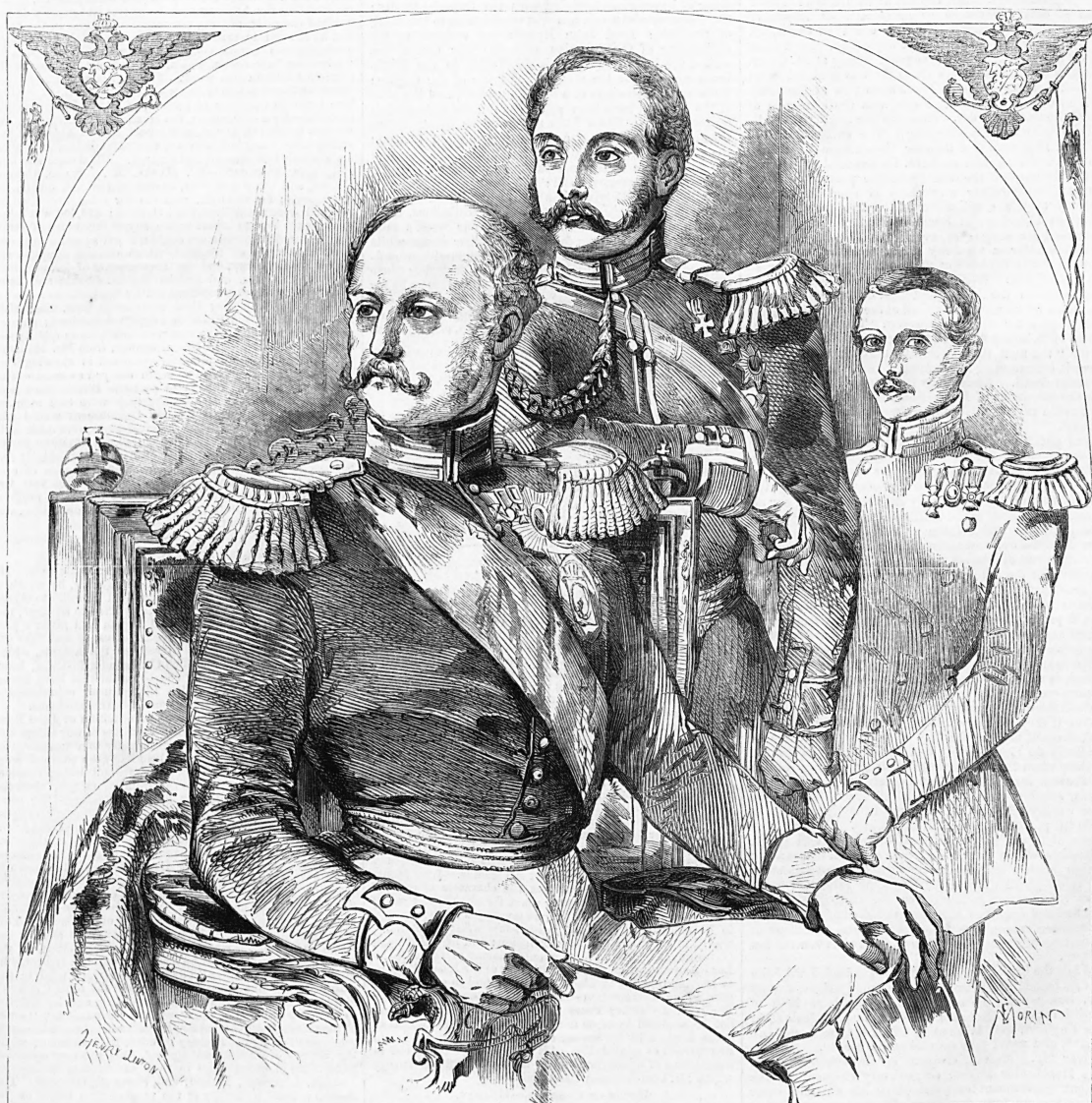
AN ILLUSTRATED FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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Vol. I.—No. 5.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1855.

[Price 6d.



THE HEADS OF THE HOUSE OF ROMANOFF.

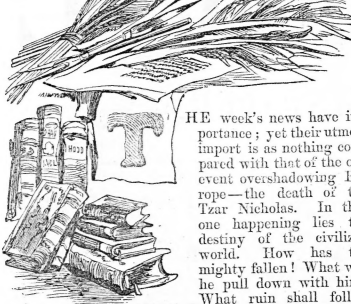
NICHOLAS.

ALEXANDER II.

CONSTANTINE.

PEN AND PENCIL.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1855.



HE week's news have importance; yet their utmost import is as nothing compared with that of the one event overshadowing Europe—the death of the Tzar Nicholas. In that one happening lies the destiny of the civilized world. How has the mighty fallen! What will he pull down with him? What ruin shall follow him to his grave? That is a grand work of *Punch* this week: General February, the so-much-depend-on, turning traitor for the nonce, standing by the Sick Man's bed—by the bed of the sick Tzar, and summoning him to his account. How has the mighty fallen! *How?* Was it only pulmonary or apoplectic, or imperial? Who will ever know? Nothing could be easier, as, certainly, nothing could be more opportune. Lord John handy at Vienna. Louis Bonaparte handy at St. Omer. In a few hours, and before the Tzar was cold, all could be settled, and—The Funds rose at the death of him, who, a year or two ago, was the champion of civilization and of order. How has the mighty fallen!

Who knows of his successor? The successor of the victor of 1820 may find another Constantine to avenge the first. Which shall we have, the peaceful Alexander, or the darling of the old Byzantine party, the fierce Constantine? Either way there is good for Russia. Possibly even a constitution and a free press and institutions liberal as in Spain or England for the enfranchised Muscovite; or, even if Constantine can supplant his elder, a necessity for some liberal reform to counterbalance the hate of nobles already grumbling at the cost of war. What will be the issue who knows? But doubtless the Allies, and high contracting parties, who seem by no means surprised at the Imperial casualty, will prepare for either emergency. The material guarantee of Sebastopol, if the taking be not too often put off for "the next three weeks," might be a good stop towards commanding in the future. But all is dark as an Imperial death. None know the counsels of diplomacy, like the intentions of Louis Bonaparte, shrouded in impenetrable mystery. Well, we pay taxes, and may be content.

And yet we may wish to know what is meant by Alexander following out "the peaceful policy" of his father; by Austria being "sanguine of peace;" by the hand-in-hand preparations for peace and war; by the sluggishness of our armies; by the uselessness of our alliances. But, after all, it matters little. Let us put our trust in princes and statesmen, however often they may have deceived us; and again and again, like the comfortable bourgeois of London, submit to have a lordly representative for the sake of being again and again deceived by incompetency and treason. That, after all the disclosures of ministerial incapacity, the City of London should prefer an ambassador at Vienna to any decent citizen and man of business, is some excuse for Lords and Commons treating the country with disdain. A new Cuffie war threatening while our Colonial Secretary is abroad, is a fine finish to the transaction. Lord Mayors' dinners are managed better than that. Messrs. Staples, of the Albion, the great City purveyors, would find little custom if they took to attending christenings at Vienna.

Parliament is flat; the City manifestly fatter, though the funds do rise a little; and trade just turns itself in its sleep when the good news of expiring Tzarism reaches its drowsy ears. But better not stir in politics, says Leeds, echoing London; and Manchester takes up the same weakly cry. As if there could be vigorous life in trade till peace is surely built in Europe. Poor unhappy Trade, that can not even mind its shops; and poorer Patriotism, which mouths out a few common places about foreign freedom and the terrible depravity of Ministers, but is delighted to vote for the same Ministers again whenever they care to face it from the hustings. All the expelled and degraded Ministers would come in again by acclamation, nay, never so many votes of censure or committees of inquiry—two farces, with not even the fun of farce.

While the City, fond as a turtle, takes back Lord John into its bosom, the Committee of Inquiry shows, day by day, how worthy he and his compere have been of English censure. But as it was Routine which made them ruin England, so it is Routine which bids us forget and forgive, and never take counsel of experience.

Hear Mr. Horsman, eloquent on the efficiency of his own Honourable House, sarcastically eloquent on the present Government system. Mark his hustings sneer at men too old even for House of Commons committees, "except by age from sitting in warm well-carpeted

rooms, and yet not disqualified for an arduous campaign in the depth of winter." "The whole of the system was the same. They were the slaves of Routine, they were under the bondage of red tape." Very true, O Horsman, and your own hustings' favours are red tape also, and so Routine has you all in a cum. Even that sturdy Mr. Layard asks leave of Routine before he can present a petition on behalf of Poland. Shabby Mr. Layard! We would have thought better of you.

One of the few superior to Routine has this week past away: Dupont de l'Eure, the eldest of French republicans, eldest and none more respected. His life will be worth considering when the brand of history has sealed the tomb of all the Bonapartes.

Our summary is nearly all comment. It can scarcely be helped; for the mere items of novelty would make but a shabby list. Beside the great deaths—of an honest man and an Emperor, what have we for our chronicling? Some sorites at Sebastopol, the progress of the railway from Balaklava to our camp, some skirmishing, some reconnoitring, some preparations, and some delay. We are right glad, though, to say that our men are in better health, better fed, better clothed. We are even going to lend some spare clothing to the French in return for old assistance. What else? Abroad there is no end of rumours. What will happen now the Tzar is dead? Will Louis Bonaparte go to the Crimea? Is the suppressed pamphlet, which too severely criticized the Crimean expedition, written by Napoleon Jerome? Real facts of course there are, as well as rumours. The Russian militia is arming; Russian commanders are changed; the oaths have been taken to Alexander the Second; the King of Prussia has concluded with the Imperial family; the Emperor of Austria has sent condolences to the King of Sardinia; Lord John Russell has assisted at the christening of the Austrian princess; our Queen has visited the hospitals; there is destitution in the Highlands, and in too many other parts of the empire; there are threatenings of a new Cuffie war, and the riots at the Diggins have been put down; more filibustering menaces Cuffie; Spain likes not religious liberty in her constitution; Belgium has a ministerial crisis; the King of Denmark is ill; and the King of Naples is uncomfortable; Belgium has a ministerial crisis; and Switzerland a popular crisis. Theatres and Exhibitions, Accidents and Offences, all help to swell our week's miscellany. But who cares for all these minor items, while Europe waits, with hushed breath, for the final bombardment of Sebastopol, for the proclamation, declaring peace or war, of the new Tzar of all the Russias, or it may be for some new policy of the Tzar of the West, our good ally and friend, so lately among us here in England, and now the arbiter of European destinies. Napoleon, *vive* Nicholas deceased.



PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The Royal assent was given by commission to the Consolidated Fund (£3,000,000) Bill, and the Consolidated Fund (£20,000,000) Bill.

In moving for copies of correspondence from India on the subject of appointments in that country, Lord MONTAGUE called attention to the plan laid down in recent minutes by Sir Charles Wood, regulating the admission of native candidates to services, with a view of further relaxing restrictions that exclude native subjects. By the Charter Act of 1833 all distinction of caste, colour, or birth was abolished; but the practice and the regulations have effectually excluded Native subjects from the higher offices until the present time. Under the recent rules Mr. Chuckerbutty, a Hindoo of the Brahmin caste, had come to this country, had undergone the examination, and had thus procured an appointment as Assistant-Surgeon. Mr. Chuckerbutty had previously been educated in this country, having been assisted to come over by persons in India—whom esteem for his extraordinary energy in issuing forth, while quite a young boy, from a native village for the purpose of seeking study at a distant school, had rendered his friends. Lord Montague, however, pointed out that the character of the examination resting in great part upon Greek, Latin, French, German, and Italian, and less upon languages more naturally to be studied by Orientals, with some other regulations, tended to keep up a practical exclusion; and he called upon Government to grant a further enlargement of the rules. Lord ASHURTON quoted the authority of Sir Edward Ryan, as proving that the Hindoos are quite equal to sustain their part in an examination—more easily indeed than many Englishmen.—Other Peers suggested that Natives should not be required to come to this country; and Lord GRANVILLE implied by his answer that the regulations are not to be regarded as unalterable. All the speakers concurred in expressions of admiration in the moral courage and energy which Mr. Chuckerbutty had exhibited.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

A new writ was ordered for Barnstaple, in the room of Mr. John Laurie, a void election.

Before going into committee of supply, a half conversational debate arose, on the postponement of a motion by Mr. RICHIEY to a committee into the military education of officers, staff and regimental. He pointed out defects in the existing arrangements, by which some departments of the army are exclusive, while others are given upon an examination; which is a more mockery as to the appointments of which it is intended to be a test. During seventeen years 146 commissions had been given to men who had risen from the ranks; 476 to cadets who had passed through the military college, and 1260 had been given away by favour or had been sold. One half of the last number was given to persons who had no intention to follow the army as a profession. It is useless to say that we have no school for officers like Algiers, since we have India. But the staff appointments are given to young gentlemen without training. As a substitute for his committee, postponed till after Easter, Mr. Rich concluded by moving a resolution:—

It is expedient that measures be taken for promoting the efficiency of our military academies and other established provisions for preparing officers for regimental and for staff appointments.

This was seconded by Captain SCORSELL. Mr. PERE, replied by a general apology for the present system, observing, that the examinations at least insure an exclusion of officers of illiterate; and promising that the new examinations, planned by Mr. Sidney Herbert, would be an improvement. The only reason why that plan had not been brought to maturity was, that the services of officers competent to act as examiners were not available. At the outset of a war you must make up the officers you have.—Several other members took part in the debate, the resolution being ultimately withdrawn.

The House then went into committee on the Ordnance estimates, which Mr. MONSELL explained in considerable detail. Admitting a number of defects in past arrangements, he remarked that the Artillery and Engineers had greatly distinguished themselves during our recent operations in India; and he alluded to several improvements which are coming gradually into operation—such as Captain Boxer's plan for "bouching" the shells, which, at a cost of £7000, saved the country £1200 in one week. The gun-factory makes 1050 Moorsom fuzes in lieu of 500, with the saving of £141 weekly. The large manufacture of rockets, of 60,000,000 small-arm cartridges by a new patent, the erection of barracks in the western heights of Dover, Gosport, and at Aldershot, are among the many indications of very extended military plans upon which Government had entered. The debate was long and rather animated.—Mr. MUNTZ, Mr. LAYARD, Colonel DENNE, and other members, complained of bad official arrangements; for example, patterns for rifles contracted for in April were not delivered till October; £50,000 was asked to dress the foreign legion before any of these men of straw were enlisted; Government could not get supplies from the small-arms trade of England, which already supplies the East India Company, and the Governments of France, Portugal, Spain, Peru, and Russia. Messrs. Deakin and Sons, of Birmingham, were reprimanded by the Ordnance department for not completing their contract in time, when they had finished it a month before the period specified; and they created a passing for the men were infamous in quality—the lightest baize.—The official answer, from Mr. MONSELL and Lord PALMERSTON, chiefly consisted in showing that the patterns had not been so much delayed as members on the other side said; that as to patterns Birmingham need not have stopped the make, since they were told to make muskets as fast as they could, and Government would take all they could produce; that the great coats were made light to diminish the burdens of the men.—Lord SEYMOUR moved to reduce the first vote of £1,406,883 for commissariat and barrack supplies, &c., by £40,000—chiefly as a sign of condensing the Government gun-factory; but the vote was carried by 107 to 34. Another motion to report progress was negatived by 110 to 24; and no effective opposition was offered to Government.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The Earl of LUCAN again brought forward his case. He read a correspondence with the Horse-Guards, by which it appeared that Lord Raglan had attributed his order to charge to some misconception of the instructions—to advance, but not to attack at all hazard. Lord Raglan had given a previous order that the cavalry should advance and take advantage of any opportunity to recover the heights, which had not been attended to. The Commander-in-Chief, however, declined to grant the court-martial that Lord Lucan required, and of this decision Lord Lucan complained—making, however, no comment on the correspondence.

A brief conversation followed, on a motion of Lord BRANES for returns of lead and other articles of war shipped to St. Petersburg. He referred principally to a statement in the papers, that twenty tons of lead had been shipped from the arsenal to the Baltic. Lord GRANVILLE, recapitulating some of the difficulties incidental to the trade of metals, observed that the blockade could not be strictly enforced for some time; but that now it would produce disastrous effects upon the finances of Russia, who had resorted to dangerous expedients for the purpose of raising money to a long conversation on the subject of EXETER gave rise to a long conversation on the wearing of clerical habiliments in public places with reference to the regular clergy and not to the secular clergy—to monks and not to priests, in the ordinary sense of the word.—This view was now supported by Earl of GRANVILLE and by the Lord CHANCELLOR, who contended that the clause in the statute, being penal, must be construed strictly, and must be applied only to "orders" of clergy, the word used in the clause.—Lord LYNDBURGH observed that the word "orders" applies to the different ranks of the clergy, and he referred to statutory mention of the "order of deacons," "the order of the priests," &c.—Lord Sir L. 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HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

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Several questions were asked respecting the war, and from the replies of Lord PALMERSTON, it appears that the medals given for the engagements of Alma and Inkerman will not enable the wearer to count two years' service as the decoration for Waterloo did; and that in matters of discipline, the authority will be still vested in the Commander-in-Chief, whose action, however, will necessarily be subjected to the decision of Government in matters of sufficient importance.

In reply to Mr. LIDDELL, Sir GEORGE GREY stated that alarm had existed on the eastern frontier on the Cape of Good Hope, from the supposed hostile alliance of the Kaffirs and Fingoes, but the despatches from the Governor on the 30th of December transmitted accounts of a more satisfactory kind. The Governor was about to proceed to the disturbed part of the province.

Mr. CHATFIELD moved for a committee to inquire into the appointment of Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., as Recorder of Brighton; Mr. James having been refused election as a benchler because of the part that he took in a compromise of the Hosham election committee. Mr. James had been elected Recorder of Brighton, and had received a salary of £1500 for the withdrawal of a bribery charge; he gave an explanation, and the result was that he was not elected. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL ridiculed the idea of excluding a gentleman of great attainment and ability from promotion because three or four individuals out of forty chose to blackball him (in a private club, as Mr. CHATFIELD said). LORD PALMERSTON, and Sir JAMES DUKES championed Mr. Edwin James, and Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY, who had seconded the motion "on the impulse of the moment," declared that Mr. James' conduct was completely vindicated, so the motion was negatived with a storm of applause against Mr. Chatfield's motion. Mr. CHATFIELD then acted as teller, and the result was that the proceedings be *not* entered on the journals of the House was carried without division.

Mr. MACKINNON moved for a Committee to inquire into the expediency of establishing equitable tribunals to decide between operatives and masters, like the "Conseils des Prud'hommes," in Paris. The legality of such tribunals is admitted by 39 and 40 George III.; and Mr. INGHAM stated that a society of the kind formed at Sunderland has worked well for some years.—Mr. WILKINSON sustained the opinion of Sir GEORGE GREY, that such tribunals could not work in this country, as they do in France; and after a very brief debate the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. APSLEY PELLATT had moved for a Select Committee on Metropolitan Interments, when the House was counted out at seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The greater part of this day was devoted to proceedings in committee on the "Public Libraries and Museums Bill," intended to give the local authorities of the smaller towns and poor law districts with more than 5000 inhabitants, the means of establishing public libraries and museums. Several amendments were made, mostly for the purpose of rendering the bill effective, or for removing provisions that might lead to embarrassment amongst those who were in part, with great interest, thus opposing the measure. The speakers were Lord STANLEY, Mr. CARDWELL, Mr. BAINTS, Mr. LOWE, Mr. WARNER, Sir ESKINE PERRY, Mr. WATSON, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. HADFIELD, Lord EMBINGTON; Sir BENJAMIN HALL also assisted. The question of making the libraries lending libraries was discussed, but it was generally admitted, that as all libraries which have recently been established for similar purposes are lending libraries, the question, perhaps, might embarrass the managers without better securing the object. It was also resolved to add newspapers, to which Mr. MONSEY objected. This journal was read, and the following resolutions passed:—That the bill be read a second time. The bill passed through committee, to be brought up with amendments on the morrow.

A bill brought in by Mr. CRAUFORD,—the “Judgments Execution, &c., Bill,” enabling judgments to run throughout Great Britain and Ireland by a force of registry, without a fresh action in the Court of one of the three kingdoms,—was lost by 89 to 18. The objections were, that the provisions of the bill would create difficulties, and that it ought to be in the hands of Government, and not of a private member. The remainder of the business was formal.

THE ARMY INQUIRY.

Mr. Rocabuck's *Committee of Inquiry* held its first meeting on Monday last in the Committee-room, No. 17, of the House of Commons. All the members were present. The committee remained in deliberation, with closed doors, till about 1 o'clock, when the representatives of the press and the public were admitted. The attendance throughout the day was good though the room was not at any time crowded. As it will be clearly impossible to give the whole evidence, we shall confine our reports to extracting the pith and remarkable portions.

Mr. R. DEXTER, M.P., was the first witness called. He said he arrived at Balaklava on the 15th of December, and left on the 29th of the same month. He was during that period constantly in the saddle, and he said he did not permit himself to dismount. The cavalry camp was about a mile from Balaklava, and in consequence of the bad weather the land was very muddy. The horses were dressed in the best pigskins without rugs, totally unprepared for the weather, and apparently unprovided with any. Many of the horses had died, and the ground was covered with dead carcasses. He was led to suppose that they had been without forage, not only from the want of food, but from the want of water. The horses and manes of many of them were eaten off. The horses of the Scots Greys seemed to be in a worse condition than the darker coloured horses. Hay was floating about in the harbour and lying on the beach, but it was not used. The weather during the last few weeks caused by the great storm of November 14. Perhaps 15 or 20 tons of bran lay waste on the shore. The uniforms of the cavalry were in rags, and the men appeared to be in a state of starvation. The men were in a worse condition than the horses, on account of their encampment being at a greater distance from Balaklava. Their uniforms were in a slattered condition, and they were without shoes, and the soles of their feet were tied round the lower part of their legs, as a protection from the mud and cold. He understood from the officers that the men were very often short of rations. They were short of rice, a well-known article of food, and of sugar, and of the usual kitchen vegetables. The men were very badly shod. The soles of their

shoes were frequently parted from the upper leather; indeed, it could not be otherwise, seeing that the men were frequently all night in the trenches, and had no facilities for changing or drying them. At first the leather of the shoes rotted, and then the stitches gave way. Thus matters went on from day to day.

The covering provided for the men was most unsatisfactory. The canvas was not weather-proof, and the mud under the canvas was several inches deep. Their supply of fuel was miserably deficient, and they could only with great labour procure the wet roots of underwood grubbed up in the neighbourhood. Charcoal was issued in very small quantities. Outside the harbour there were thousands of tons of admirable fuel, the remains of the vessels that had been driven to pieces. The fragments appeared as if they had gone through a mill.

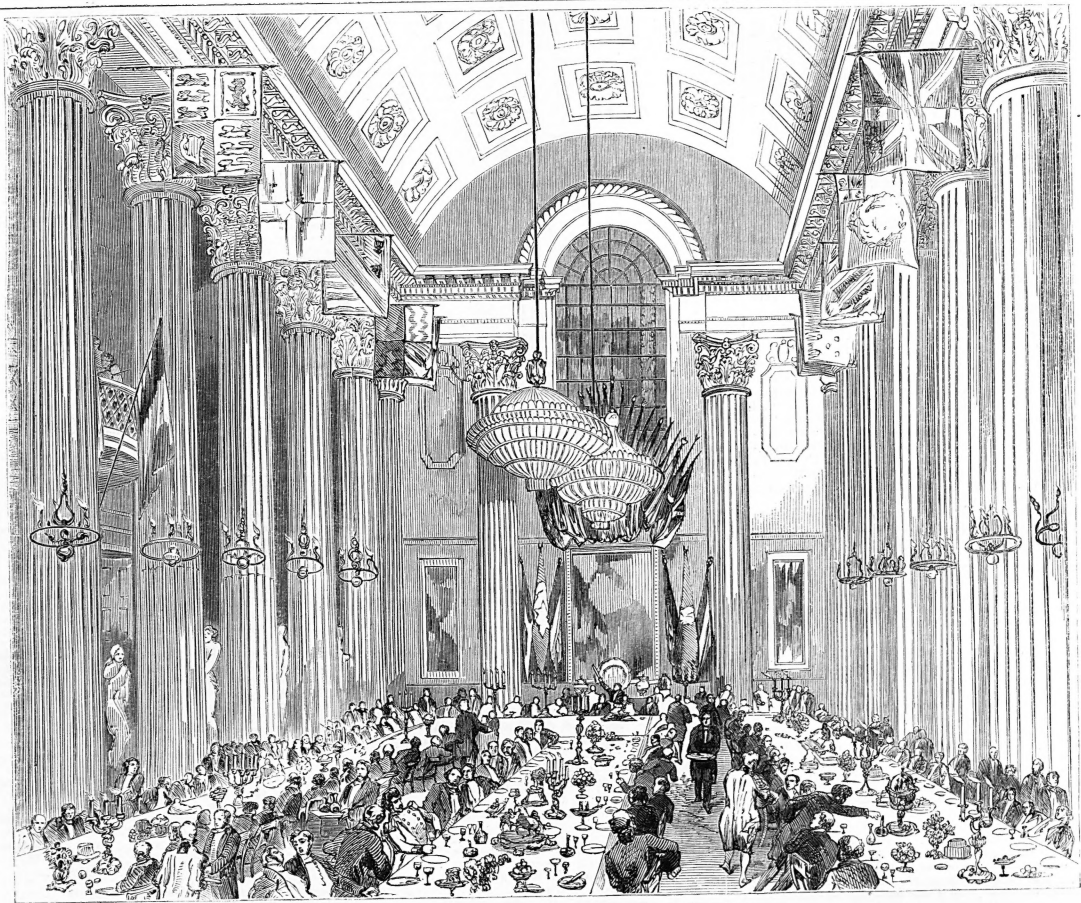
He always understood there was an abundance of morn for the native horses in Turkey. The cavalry horses were much worse off than the artillery. The way in which the cavalry horses were picketed was by fastening them at distances of twelve or eighteen paces from the front of the camp, and the front of the camp was in many places, were nearly up to the knees in mud. There were two principal roads from Balaklava, one leading through the camp, and the more direct of the two, and the other through the village of Kadikoi, up the valley, and then on to the plateau. There was also another route over the hills to the left, likewise extremely difficult. The French never sent their cavalry to the plateau, and therefore neither were their depots for firewood in the front. The French had large sheds or hospitals near their lines in the neighbourhood of Kamiesh Bay, but there were none near the English camp. The remains of five or six vessels were heaped together, and lying on the beach between a quarter and half a mile to the eastward of the camp, and the water was so shallow that the boats could not go there. The state of the water in the harbour was very dirty, but he did not see dead bodies floating about in it. He did not consider the English burying-ground was in the proper place, but the Turkish burying-ground close to the town was much worse.

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Lieutenant-colonel Sir DE LACY EVANS was the next witness called. He had the command of the 2nd division of the English army, which he joined at Scutari, about the 20th of April. At that time, 50,000 of the English army were at Scutari, whose principal duty was to guard the coast against the possibility of an attack by Varna. Water was very scarce, and the English army was experienced in getting proper sites for the encampment of the troops. About a month before starting for the Crimea, the cholera broke out, and carried off about 60 out of the 6000; the general was at Scutari on the 29th of April, and on the 1st of May, the memorable 18th of June, and arrived at Eupatoria Sept. 12. The soldiers landed without their knapsacks or tents, that they might have as little luggage as possible. The rain fell heavily on the 13th, and the result of being unable to find the means of transporting the troops were very serious. The 2nd division of the English army, the road from Balaklava to the encampment might have been rendered passable by 1000 men being employed upon it for about ten days, but the men could not be spared, they were so overworked, and the water was so scarce. The English army at Varna there was a great lack of fuel, and no warm clothing was served out to them. Regarding food, he said there were difficulties in procuring it, but there was constantly a great pressure from the army for means of transporting it, and there were contests besides among the people, and the English army was not strong. Those contests arose in consequence of the persons who were sent out being utterly incompetent for their duties. They might be very good clerks in the Treasury, but they knew nothing about the army, and the result of their incompetency was great differences among them, thus they were compelled to write to the Commander-in-Chief, and one by one they were removed. He believed one died from disappointment at his removal. The chief cause of suffering was the overworking the men beyond all proportion, and the state of the weather. The English army was in his own among the number, and consequently they were in a very bad state. There was a difficulty in getting the stores at Balaklava, which arose from no person being there to sign the necessary orders, and the stores were rigidly refused to be sent out. There was very inadequately supplied with food, and but very strong complaints were made by the medical officers. All serious

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Mr. DUNDAS, M.P., was recalled, and gave evidence as to the state of the sick on board the *Timor*, the steamer in which witness came from Bulaklava to Scutari. There were 299 sick soldiers on board, for whom no preparation had been made. They were laid on the bare deck, with only their greatcoats or one or two blankets,



THE LORD MAYOR'S DINNER TO THE GARRICK CLUB. (See page 76.)

and their knapsacks for their pillows. There were only three medical men on board, and two of them became ill. The air between decks was very offensive, and aggravated the diseases. On arriving at Scutari, it was seven days before all the men could be landed. Had there been hospital accommodation they might have been landed in one day. In all, there were 33 deaths on the voyage. He had visited the hospitals at Scutari, and was disposed to give all credit to the medical men, but the work was too much for them. The attendance of orderlies was extremely bad; they were soldiers taken at random, often of indifferent character. An officer had heard one of them say it was a bad day when two orderlies did not get three bottles of port wine between them. He believed each medical man had to attend on 90 sick.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7.—General BENTLEY examined. He thought the ambulance waggons were too large and too heavy for the purposes for which they were applied. He did not think the troops suffered much for want of tents. His soldiers' knapsacks were left at Varus, and the troops did not get them till October. The officers had no change of clothing for four weeks. He considered the chief cause of the sickness of the men was over-work. The officers were obliged to buy their own horses, and no compensation was made to them for those which they lost. The ordinary clothing of the troops was insufficient, and no winter garments had reached them when he left. To that circumstance no doubt much of the mortality was attributable. His brigade complained

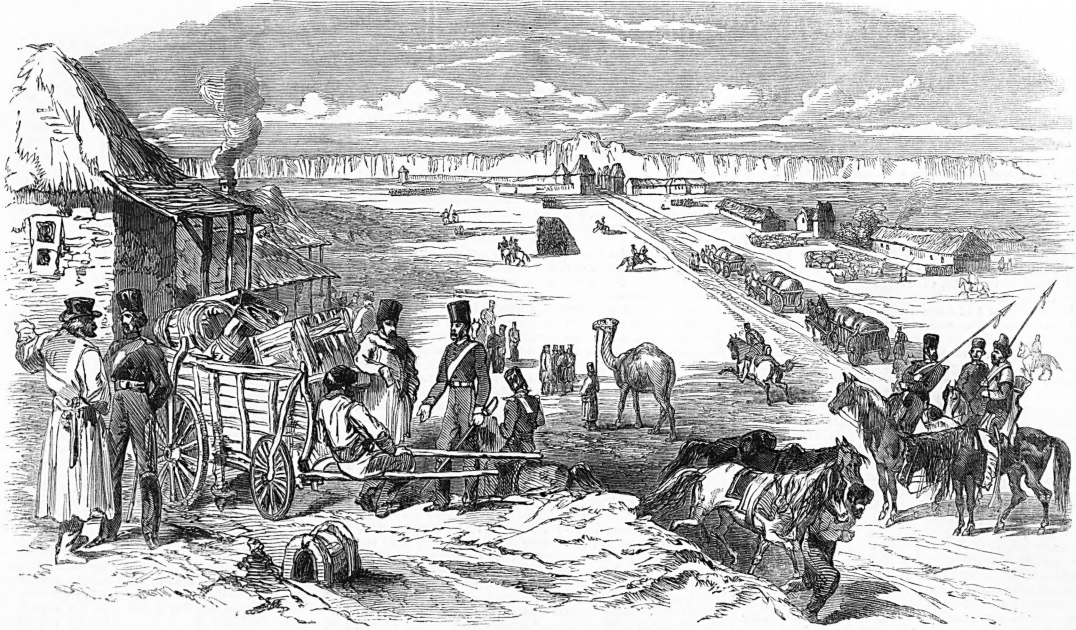
that they were not properly supplied with medicines. The road between Balaklava and the camp was very bad, but he doubted whether any improvement could be made.

Mr. STRENGTH OWEN, the only surviving officer of the *Resolute*, was next examined. He said eight of the crew were saved besides himself. There were 14 fathoms water when the *Resolute* went down. Her cargo consisted of arms and ammunition. There were 15 or 16 vessels anchored outside the harbour as well as the *Resolute*, and 10 of them besides that ship were lost. Of all the wrecks there were only 28 men saved, and above 500 lost. He considered the anchorage outside the harbour very dangerous. Captain Lewis, the commander of the *Resolute*, applied to Captain Christie, who had the command of the transports, for permission to go into the harbour, but was refused. The harbour was not so full as to prevent the vessels outside from going in; it would have held 50 ships if they had been properly moored. The ships inside were arranged with their heads and sterns up and down the length of the harbour, instead of across it. The high cliffs of the valley of Balaklava acted as a funnel for the wind; and the strong gusts, taking the ships' broadside, drove them from their moorings. He was saved by jumping from the ship when her stern struck the rocks, and was hurled on to the foot of the cliff; they were then only rescued by ropes let down from the top of the cliff; it required 60 fathoms of rope to hoist them up. There was only one little spot to the north-west that was sand. It was there that the *Rip*

Van Winkle went ashore; no one was saved from her. Considering the weather, it was almost a miracle that 28 lives should have been saved. He did not think this destruction would have been placed had the ship been in the harbour. Captain Christie lived on board the *Melbourne* steamer, which was also outside the harbour. He appeared to have the entire charge of the transports. No one seemed to interfere with him. They had not discharged their cargo during the time they were in the harbour. Up to October 27th they had only landed a few boxes of Minié rifle balls. They had 500 tons of ammunition on board. They were never asked about it, and he supposed it was not wanted. Twenty-five transports were all the vessels inside the harbour. The port is about 400 yards long. He was aware that the vessels inside were considerably damaged. He did not think, had the other ships been inside, more damage would have been done. Captain Heath only directed them to their anchoring-place when they got into Balaklava; it was Captain Christie who ordered them out. He gave them several contradictory orders during the same day; he told them to double their moorings, and when it was all done he ordered them to go out of the harbour. There would have been no difficulty in landing the cargo during the time they were in the harbour. Ships were in the harbour with ammunition, and the danger might have been increased by additions to their number. The *Prince*, though nearly 3000 tons, and longer than the *Agamemnon*, could have en-



FRENCH SOLDIER: MAKING COFFEE.



PEREKOP. (See page 76.)

tered the harbour. He did not know that the captain of the *Prince* had ever applied to go in. There was one quay, called the Ordnance Wharf, probably reserved for landing the artillery.

Captain WHITTLESLEY, of the Royal Engineers, was next called. He was sent to Gallipoli, about the middle of March, to prepare for the reception of the troops. He afterwards went to Varna, to construct wharfs for landing the horses. When the troops arrived at Varna there was a great want of transport, which was the chief difficulty the English Engineers had to contend with; the French Sappers brought their own horses from France, while to convey wood for the wharfs the English Engineers, after sending a requisition to the Quartermaster-General's Department, whence another requisition went to the Commissariat, had to depend on the native Arutas. Thus, though the French, who were building wharfs at the same time, often worked with less skill as workmen, the English Engineers were so unfavourably handicapped in the race that they were beaten from not having the same superior means of transport; 500 bullock waggons were sent down to Varna by Omer Pasha, being all he could spare from his own army; but when they arrived there were no arrangements for organizing them; the drivers were not regularly fed or paid, and gradually they all ran away. There was an absolute want of horses, though they had officers in Syria and Spain purchasing them. A few fine mules were obtained, but they were vicious brutes, quite unsuited to harness. No horse fit for the shafts of an army carriage constructed for English horses could be obtained. The ambulance carts sent out could not be used, for there were no means of drawing them. If a Turkish horse was placed in a cart built for the English standard the shafts would be on a level with his backbone; few horses of the country exceeded 11 hands in height. The medicine chests of the army were all too large; they were used as tables, and would dine four persons very comfortably, but they could not be carried by mules. The Engineers

were ordered to make smaller ones. The packages of the army generally were too large, and should be reduced as far as possible to a weight of 112lb., half a load for a mule. The tools of the Engineers supplied by the Ordnance Department were generally good, but the tools issued to the pioneers of the army were inferior. He thought the troops were well supplied both at Varna and Gallipoli; the French bought and killed their own cattle, and baked their own bread; the system of the English Commissariat was to contract for meat, and bread ready baked; he thought the mistake of our Commissariat was supposing that what worked well in the high civilization of Great Britain would do in semi-civilized countries. The Commissariat ought not to be charged with the transport of the army; it was the chief cause of the inefficiency of the department; it was overwhelmed by applications for the means of conveyance. The siege-train was not landed at Varna; it was sent from England without the means of drawing it.

THE WAR.

JOURNAL OF THE SIEGE.

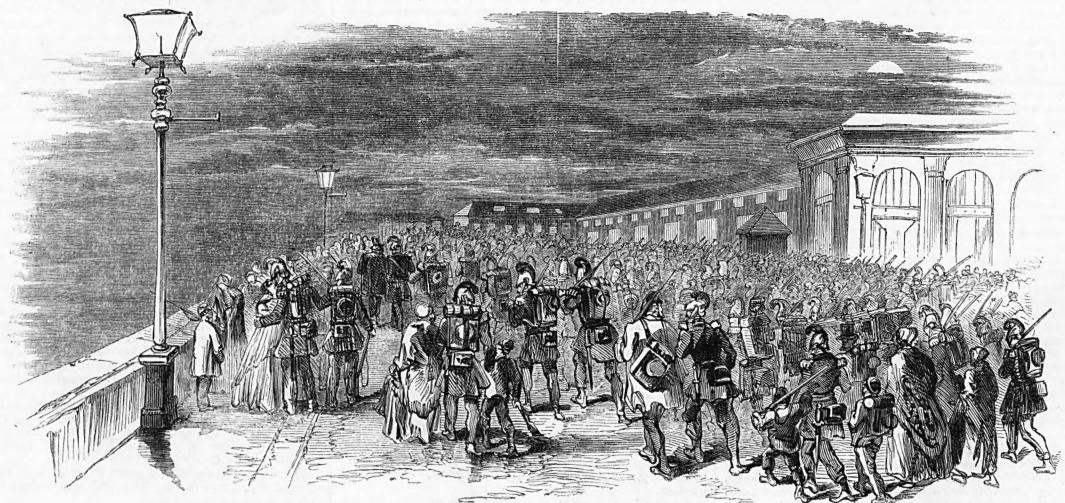
Our news from Sebastopol comprise dates from the 17th to the 24th February.

CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, FEB. 17.—Fine and temperate. Thermometer 46 deg., being an increase of 8 deg. since yesterday; the men busily employed in getting up shot and shell to the front. The Turkish (50) frigate, which arrived yesterday with Croat labourers for the railway, is likely to remain here as a hospital ship for the troops of the Sultan. Nearly all the regiments are now fully provided with hospital huts. The Cossacks re-appeared to-day, and were more numerous than usual on the hills behind Balak-

lava. A little pack of six of them were very busy in front of (late) No. 3 Redoubt, and seemed to be making a close reconnaissance of our front, but there was no appearance of any collection of men near Kamara or Tchorgoum. On the north side of Sebastopol the Russians have seamed the earth in every direction with mud batteries and entrenchments. To-day about 2500 men could be seen through the glass working at a long trench, which runs nearly due south-east from the end of the bay at Inkerman towards the Belbek. It seems as if their camp between Inkerman and the Belbek was not so large. Probably some considerable force has been drawn off in our present inactive state towards their centres of supply. There is a good deal of firing to-night on the French on the left, as well as on our own working parties in front. Lord Raglan visited a portion of the camp to-day. Scarcely a single day passes, indeed, on which his lordship does not now inspect some part or other of the lines. All our lines towards the sea-road from Yalta have been much strengthened, and the profile of the works has been altered and improved.

FEB. 18.—Shot and shell still going up to the front. The mortality among the horses does not diminish; and the wretched oxen intended for conversion into beef die rapidly of emaciation. There is a report that Sir R. England has been recalled, and that he will be succeeded by Major-General Eyre. The report does not stop here, for higher personages are said to be resigning or going home, and a retirement of the head-quarters staff *en masse* is spoken of.

FEB. 19.—The drying winds continue, and the plateau to the south of Sebastopol can be traversed easily on horse or foot,



FRENCH SAPPERS WORKING. (See page 76.)

even at the bottom of the ravines. With this fine weather the good spirits and energies of our men have returned, but the warm wind which blew the other day brought with it, or developed, the seeds of typhus fever, which broke out in several regiments lately, and soon made some of the strongest men as its victims. At this moment there is an appearance of a change in the weather; the thermometer is at 46°, and the wind is strong from the westward, with heavy masses of clouds coming down along with it. The trenches, however, are dry; the men get all they want, provisions are abundant; hay has arrived, and fresh vegetables have been sent up to the front to check the sourry. The progress of the railway is extraordinary. It is already completed out to the entrance of the village of Kadikoi; to-morrow it will have passed through it on its way out to the plateau, and on Wednesday it will be, in all probability, used for the transport of a cargo of shot and shell out so far from Balaklava in the intervals of the workmen's labour. The aspect of the town is greatly altered for the better. The wretched hovels in which the Turkish soldiery propagated pestilence and died, have been cleaned out or levelled to the earth, the cesspools and collections of utter abomination in the streets have been filled up, and quackline has been laid down in the streets and lanes, and around the houses. The sutlers have been driven forth to a wooden world of their own outside the town, and the number of visitors to the town diminished. Indeed, the railway, which sweeps right through the main street, very effectively clears away the crowds of stragglers who used to infest the place. It is inexpressibly strange to hear the well-known rumbling sound of the carriages and wagons as they pass to and fro with their freights of navvies, sleepers, and rails; it recalls home more than anything we have heard in the Crimea.

The Cossacks are riding about the hills in front; our videttes are watching them; vast masses of men in long lines, carrying planks of wood, fascines, and mortar-bags, seem at a distance like armies of ants migrating. The thunder of cannon from the front booms through the air, the martial music of the French regiments interrupted by the creaking of cartwheels, the cries of camels, the yells of drivers in nearly every language of the east or west,—worse than all, by the terrible instruments of the Turkish bands, speak of war, which no one knows is so near as this day.

A general order has been issued, positively forbidding either officers or men from entering Balaklava by crossing the plain from the rear of our camp lines. One reason for this order is said to be that so many of our private soldiers have taken advantage of their being in the neighbourhood of the Cossack pickets to desert into their lines, frequently taking with them their pack horses.

The first of the stationary engines for the new tramway was brought to Kadikoi this evening. When fixed in its position, I believe it is intended to work the line for ordinary traffic as far as that village.

Both French and Russians have been firing heavily throughout the day, and at the time I write (8 p.m.) our allies are still throwing shells into the enemy's works. The concussion caused by the firing of a 15-inch mortar is quite a thing tremendous. When the French fire, and the wind blows from them to us, the force of the explosion is felt, even at the distance of a mile, as if you received a violent blow on the chest.

FEB. 20.—After a season of delightful weather, we are again plunged into the depth of winter. The cold is extreme, with sharp north wind, and a heavy fall of snow has drifted in places to a depth of several feet.

Yesterday, Lord Raglan, with the Quartermaster-General, was out for several hours, making a reconnaissance in the Inkerman and Tchernaya valleys, and inspecting our own position in these localities. They did not return to headquarters until long after nightfall, and it was generally understood that an attack was to have been made this morning by the allies upon the Russian positions on the Tchernaya. The fall of snow has, however, foiled the intention. All the troops were ordered to parade at three a.m., but the weather has defeated everything for the present.

FEB. 21.—Northerly wind, frost, and snow; the thermometer at 20 degs. in the early morning. Last night the Russians made a small demonstration against us. Their usual mode of conducting a night attack is to send out their men with a few muskets, and to send on some 30 men in advance of a party of 500 or 800, in loose skirmishing order. These men advance stealthily, en tirailleur, up to the line of our sentries and pickets, and feel their way cautiously, in order to ascertain if there is a weak and undefended point for the advance of the main body. If the firing is slack, the latter immediately push on, rush into the trenches, bayonet as many as resist, and dragging off all the men they can get as prisoners, return to the town as rapidly as possible. In these affairs the French suffer most. Any man, however weak, can rush across a landing into the nearest room, and do damage in it before he is kicked out. The French are so close to the Russians they may be said to live next door to them. The latter can form in a small body, under cover of their works, at any hour in the night, and dash into the works of our allies can get together to drive them back again. The effect of a strong sortie, like that from Bayonne for instance, must be very mischievous; but it would be attended with this result to the enemy, that the French would certainly enter the place along with the broken columns, unless the officer in command fired on friend and foe, as the Muscovite artillery did at Balaklava. However this may be, it is certain the enemy get small profit out of their present mode of action. Last night, some 35 men advanced upon the sentries stationed in front of Major Chapman's batteries (the Left Attack), but they were instantly perceived and challenged. They replied "Ruski!" and were at once fired upon. The riflemen in the pits, which have been made in the front of the batteries, came so quickly, for the night was very dark, and the wind was "enough to cut the very eyes out of one's head." Our poor fellows in hospital felt the benefit of the sheds and wooden huts.

There were few cases of illness in the trenches; but sickness has increased within the last 24 hours. Typhus fever has nearly disappeared. Five deserters came in, and reported that the Russians were greatly distressed at the news from Eupatoria, where they believed they had lost 4000 men. Six deserters came in a day or two ago, so that we have had eleven from them within the last few days. They state, however, that a convoy of no less than 350 wagons was received by the garrison on the 19th. Our sentries had reported the arrival of this convoy, and somehow or other the French at Inkerman could not prevent it reaching the city. Another convoy of 250 wagons was received by the enemy to-day without loss to them, or any attempt on our part to hinder them getting such extensive supplies. It is clear they use the Tatar population as their carriers, roadmakers, labourers, and drivers, and they must have great advantages in being able to command such an amount of even compulsory labour.

Russian, who intended to dress himself as a Turkish officer, has been taken within our lines, and will, no doubt, receive the fate of a spy. He wore a French soldier's red trousers, and was otherwise not quite successful in counterfeiting the semblance of "Bono Johnny."

FEB. 22.—Thermometer 22 deg.; dull and cloudy. Nothing to report. Upwards of 130 sick men were sent in to Balaklava to-day. The firing from the Russians was continued from our mortar up till one o'clock, when it ceased.

FEB. 23.—The Australian arrived to-day, with Lord George Paget on board. It is said his Lordship will have the command of the Light Cavalry Brigade. The Grenadier Guards marched down to Balaklava to-day, and took up their quarters in huts on the hills outside the town. The 17th Regiment have been armed with Martini rifles, instead of the old Enfield. We are going to lend the French warm clothing, socks, flannels, &c. The railway is now 100 yards beyond Kadikoi. One stationary engine has been run up to the high ground near the plateau of the camp. *Inter alia*, we are to have a hotel at Balaklava. It is to be conducted by "Mrs. Seacole, late of Jamaica." The usual "three weeks hence" is now fixed upon for the re-opening of the city. The French are working actively on our right, and in advance of it, and the enemy do not disturb them.

FEB. 24, 4 A.M.—Awakened up shortly after two o'clock this morning by the commencement of one of the most furious cannonades we have heard since the siege began. The whole line of the Russian batteries from our left opened with inconceivable force and noise, and the Inkerman batteries began playing on our right. The French were most exposed to the weight of this most terrible fire, which shook the very earth, and lighted up the skies with incessant lightning flashes for an hour and a half. Under cover of it a very strong sortie has been made, and for half an hour the musketry rolled incessantly with volume and vigour enough for a general action. Just this moment returned in the dark, both physically and mentally unable to discover what was done by all this sound and fury. Judging from the weight and extent of the fire the Russians must have been in large bodies—perhaps a sortie of 2500 or 3000 men, and they were splendidly covered by the fire of their batteries. As yet no one has heard any particulars. Everyone is up. The reserve companies of the regiments in trenches are all under arms.

LATEST FROM THE CAMP.

(BY TELEGRAPHIC TELEGRAMS.)

SEBASTOPOL, FEB. 20.—The weather is rainy. Large masses of Russians show themselves on the heights of Balaklava. On the departure of the courier a heavy cannonade was going on. The batteries and trenches are completed.

SEBASTOPOL, FEB. 24.—Weather fine. Generals Bosquet and Campbell have reconnoitred the heights of Balaklava, and exchanged shots with the advanced posts of the Russians, who retired to Tchernaya precipitately.

Later advices than the foregoing, received *via* Vienna, state that sanguinary combats have taken place on the Tchernaya.

PARIS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 8.30 a.m.—The *Moniteur* publishes a despatch dated 24th February, in which it announces that the Russians appear to have abandoned the positions they held opposite Eupatoria. In their retreat they burned the villages in which they had been established.

During the night, between the 23rd and 24th February, the second corps of the French army carried the important works of counter-approach established by the garrison of Sebastopol, opposite the French works, round the Malakoff Tower.

The loss of the French consisted in some hundred wounded.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

RUSSIA.—The manifesto of Alexander II. has appeared. After announcing the sudden and severe illness of the Emperor Nicholas, which terminated in his death, it says that, as the deceased devoted himself incessantly for the welfare of his subjects, "so do we also, on ascending the throne of Russia, and of Poland and Finland, inseparable from it, take a solemn oath before God to regard the welfare of our empire as our only object. May Providence, which has selected us for so high a calling, be our guide and protector, that we may maintain Russia on the highest standard of power and glory, and in our person accomplish the incessant wishes and views of Peter, of Catherine, of Alexander, and of our father. May the zeal of our subjects assist us therein. We invoke and command the oath of allegiance to us and to the heir to the throne, our son Nicholas Alexandrovitch."

A despatch from St. Petersburg, dated the 3rd instant, states that the officers of the Imperial house had taken the oaths of allegiance, a few hours after the death of the Emperor, to his heir and successor, the present Tzar. The whole garrison was to perform the same ceremony on the 3rd. On the 2nd, Count Panin, the Minister of Justice, put seals upon the private cabinet of the late Emperor, in presence of the heir.

A letter from Warsaw, of the 2nd, in the *Cologne Gazette*, says:—

A telegraphic despatch, which arrived yesterday, has ordered

Prince Paskiewitch to hold himself in readiness to leave for St. Petersburg at a moment's notice, in the event of the Generals were, immediately on its arrival, summoned to the palace.

The Russian militia will at first be called out only in six Governments, but from April 1st in twelve, and successively in all the provinces of the empire, excepting the Baltic provinces, to the extent of 23 souls in the thousand. The percentage is reckoned not on the actual population, but on the population registered for the district at some period within the previous 25 years. It is in reference to this arrangement that in the ukases calling out the militia the expression "23 per 1000" of the registered souls (*skaskonije duschi*) is used.

The Bashkirs, who are now arriving at St. Petersburg in small detachments, are no longer armed with their primitive bows and arrows, but with good long guns; their costume, however, is described as unchanged. Their horses are short legged and short necked, with small heads and flowing manes, as thoroughly Asiatic as their masters. These troops are destined to be moved up to the Baltic coast. Tunguses and Borattes are expected very shortly to make their appearance in St. Petersburg. The militia now in process of being raised wear gray coats with a red girdle, gray trousers, and a gray cap with a yellow cross fastened on it.

For many days. Private correspondence from Kaminita Podolski, dated February 20, gives a sad account of the condition of "Russian" Poland.

Commerce is completely annihilated, money scarce, provisions dear. Nothing but complete ruin, desolation, and famine, stare us in the face. If Europe could only see us, she could not resist coming to our assistance.

The same writer adds—

As a matter of course, we are systematically kept in the dark as regards the march of events in Europe generally. Very few foreign journals are permitted to enter the kingdom, and then only in such a mutilated state as to defy even the most ingenious persons from making "head or tail" of the real state of affairs and public opinion. Formerly the objectionable parts of foreign newspapers were blackened over by printing ink. The board of censorship now adopts the more safe method of cutting out the papers, by which means, by which means the article on the other side is also rendered totally unintelligible.

PRUSSIA.—Immediately on the receipt at Berlin of the news of the Tzar's death, the Oberhofmarschall Graf Keller called upon Lord John Russell with a letter from the King, communicating to him the sad news, and regretting the impossibility of receiving his Lordship at dinner as had been expected. Probably the German action rapidly gained ground in the highest circle that no change for the better was to be looked for speedily, if ever, and Lord John Russell proceeded about noon to take his farewell audience of the King, and departed for Vienna.

The royal family of Prussia have retired to Charlottenburg. The court and the army go into mourning for a week. The theatres have been closed for three days. Prince Charles (the Prince of Prussia being prevented by his poor state of health) has gone to St. Petersburg, to be present at the Tzar's funeral.

It would almost seem as if, from the very first, no hopes were entertained of the Emperor's recovery, otherwise we should have heard of supreme unction having been administered to him, in the Greek Church, as a sacrament, to which efficacy is imputed as much for the cure of the body as for the salvation of the soul.

General von Wedell has returned from Paris, where, according to all appearance, his mission has, for the present, met with no success. Prussia seems likely to be more than ever averse to hostile measures against Russia. The following resolution has been taken before the First Chamber for discussion and approval:—

The First Chamber acknowledges and deeply regrets the baneful influence of the Sound dues on the trade and navigation of Prussia, and expresses its confidence that the Prussian Government will take every step in its power for the abolishment of the said Sound dues.

It is under the consideration of the Prussian Government to lay before the Chambers a bill to raise the consumption duty on salt from 1 silver groschen to 14.

About the middle of this month a new journal in the French language is to be started at Berlin by the Russian Government, to be entitled *Journal du Nord*. The funds are to be derived from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in St. Petersburg, and the paper will be conducted under the management of a member of the Russian Embassy. The chief editor will be M. Creteanu-Jolly, known in the literary world as a zealous defender of the Jesuits. Two sub-editors will be supplied from the head-quarters of the Russian propaganda in Brussels, and a third from St. Petersburg.

Letters from several parts of Germany, says the *Daily News*, inform us that the cabinets of Berlin and Vienna are severely treating with the secondary states of Europe, with opposite ends. The Prussian government is in communication with Holland, Denmark, Sweden, and other states, endeavouring to engage them to neutrality in the present war, while that of Austria is—or rather was—trying to secure the adhesion of the same states to the treaty of December 2.

AUSTRIA.—The Emperor has issued an order of the day to his army, ordaining that, as a mark of gratitude for the assistance given to the empire with noble disinterestedness by the late Emperor Nicholas, at a period of trial and of great calamities, the Austrian Cuirassier Regiment "Emperor Nicholas" shall retain that denomination for ever in the Austrian army.

The correspondence of the *Daily News* remarks—

The correspondence of the Congress will begin in so short a time, it does not appear advisable to indulge in any speculations as to their result, but it may be stated that the Austrian Government is more sanguine that peace will be restored than are its allies.

The same writer also says that the Emperor Francis Joseph is firmly impressed with the conviction that peace would be restored.

It seems that the Emperor Nicholas, through Prince Gortschakoff, expressed his earnest desire to conclude peace on the terms proposed by the Allies; but besought the Austrian monarch not to insist on conditions which he could not accept without being humiliated in the eyes of his subjects.

The Vienna Exchange has given its opinion on the likely effect of the Tzar's death. The foreign exchanges fell one, and stocks rose two, per cent.

WURTEMBERG.—In its sitting of March 1, the Chamber of Deputies voted by a considerable majority the three millions

demanded by the Minister-of-War, inserting formally in the bill the request of a close alliance to the policy of Austria.

ITALY.—The Sardinian Chamber has adopted the bill for the Suppression of Convents and other Ecclesiastical Corporations by a majority of 117 votes against 36.

The commissariat department is actively employed in making provision for the ensuing campaign. Large quantities of biscuits are being prepared at the bakeries at Alexandria, and the Government has already collected about 150 miles, which will shortly be shipped at Genoa for the East, to await the arrival of the troops. The Turin papers state that General La Marmora had been disappointed in finding, on his arrival in Paris, that he, as commander of the Sardinian expedition, would not be considered on equal terms with the commanders of the French and English armies; in fact, that he would not be called to councils of war.

Sardinia is to be made to feel the full degradation of an Austrian Alliance. The only amends being an autograph letter from the Austrian Emperor condoling with Victor Emanuel on the losses in his family.

Naples also, it is said, is to join the Allies, under the same pressure as Piedmont; and they talk of the 15,000 Neapolitan troops occupying Lombardy, where, doubtless, their countrymen will warmly welcome them. The new alliances are presenting strange matter for reflection. Austria, Piedmont, Naples, and France, to say nothing of England, in a league to oppose Russia, and at the same time to keep down the Italian people.

Arrests of course continue in Naples; the Carnival has completed its career, and the country has been very quiet in consequence of the announcement of the Queen and the deaths in the Sardinian family.

SWITZERLAND.—The canton of Ticino is in a very disturbed state. A letter from Lugano, dated Feb. 28, says:—

The pronouncement of the three principal towns of the canton of Mendrisio in favour of the Government has been responded to by the peasantry. The column of armed men who marched from Bellinzona into the Levantina was 550 strong. It reached Binsina on the 26th, and was there joined in the evening by 150 men of that district. On the 27th, this corps entered Faido, and defiled on the square shouting *Viva* for the Liberals. The printing-office of the *Patriotta* was invaded by them, and the furniture, having been carried on the square, was then set on fire. The presses, which had been concealed, were similarly destroyed. The chiefs of the opposition had fled from Faido. A detachment of that corps has just left for Quinto.

A letter from Bellinzona, of the 1st inst., adds:—The movement is going on ground. The pupils of the Gymnasium have formed themselves into a guard of honour for the defence of the Grand Council. Yesterday, the Federal Commissioner Bourgeois arrived here, and had a conference with the members of the Government and the Liberal Committee.

In his report to the Federal Council, the Commissioner directs the attention of the Government to the illegality of the armed bands, and of the arrests they have effected. He states that members of the Grand Council are among the persons thus illegally thrown into prison; and, after showing the danger to which parliamentary liberty was exposed by the presence of those armed men in the chief town of the district, he demands the re-establishment of the authorities, the liberation of the members of the Grand Council, and the dissolution or removal of the armed bands. The Council of State is said to have acceded to those demands. By its orders a detachment of 300 men has marched from Bellinzona to Locarno, and M. Stoppani and other members of the Grand Council have been liberated. M. Gradie, a member of the Grand Council of Ticino, deputed by the opposition, has arrived here, and presented to the Federal Council a memorial, giving an account of the proceedings of the liberals, and requesting that measures may be taken for the re-establishment of order in Ticino.

It was believed that the Cantonal Government, in the interest of public peace, would retire on the meeting of the Grand Council, which was convoked for the 28th ult., that the assembly might reconstruct a new executive power.

The *Lausanne Gazette* states that the second Foreign Legion, in the service of France, had already its full complement of men, double the number required having presented themselves to enlist. Among the officers are several belonging to the high aristocracy.

SPAIN.—The Constituent Cortes has voted, after a long debate, the religious basis of the Constitution as follows:—

The nation binds itself to maintain and protect the worship and Ministers of the Catholic religion which Spaniards profess; but no Spaniard or foreigner shall be prosecuted for his opinions or belief, so long as he does not manifest them by public acts contrary to religion.

The Cortes has decided not to admit petitions against the basis of the Constitution.

The *Gazette* contains the following telegraphic despatch from the Spanish Consul at Bayonne:—

A telegraphic despatch, just received from the Prefect of the Basses Pyrénées, announces the capture, in the Aldudes, of the Carlists, Don Eusebio Landu, Colonel; Don Miguel Urizua and Don Javier Vergara, Captains; Don Ramon Asturiscia, proprietor; and one Urizua, who served them as guide. The coast (probably the frontier) is entirely cleared of the Alsatian emissaries.

At Durona, in Aragon, some disturbances had broken out, but they were not considered serious.

The Cortes has conceded the Almanza Railway to M. Salamanca.

BELGIUM is suffering a ministerial crisis; M. de Brouckère was sent for by the King on Sunday, and had a long interview with His Majesty. M. de Brouckère having declined undertaking the task of forming a Ministry with some members of the late Cabinet, it is thought that one of the leading members of the Liberal fraction of the Chamber of Representatives will be sent for, and charged to form a Ministry.

FRANCE.—The principal events of the week have been the visit of the French Emperor to the camps of Amblesauve, Wimeroux, and Honvaux, and the conference held by him with Lord Clarendon at Boulogne, innately with some receipt of intelligence of the death of the Tsar. The Parisian public will not believe that his death was natural, not crediting that an Emperor of Russia can die in other than Imperial manner. Since the news of the Emperor's death, orders have been despatched to General Canrobert to press on the siege of Sebastopol with the utmost vigour. Of the departure of the Emperor Napoleon for the Crimea no-

thing whatever can be said more than has been already. Everything continues in the same state of preparation. The greatest activity prevails in the offices of the Ministry of War. Orders have been given in all parts of France to form battalions of war; and they are already being executed in all the divisions.

General Ochsenstein, who is charged with the organization and command of the second Foreign Legion, has arrived at Besançon.

The intelligence of the death of the Emperor created an immense sensation at the Petite Bourse, and the Threes went up to 73½. At the opening of the Bourse they were done at 72½, 71½, 50c.; after many variations, they closed on the same day at 71½, 80c.

It is said that the English Government have asked for some explanations touching the firm of the Sultan, authorizing the construction of the canal of Suez. It was alleged that the English Ambassador at Constantinople had exerted his influence against that concession. The reply of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs was, according to the same account, that the enterprise was a private one, with which the Government had little or nothing to do; that it was not exclusively confined to Frenchmen, and, moreover, that England had as much, or rather greater interest in its completion than any other nation. It was, besides, a work of great importance to the wellbeing of mankind at large.

The army of Paris has been transformed into the army of the East. The new army will be composed of five divisions of infantry and three of cavalry, with the batteries, staff and engineers usually attached to active business; in all 50,000 infantry, 3000 cavalry, and 16 batteries. It will be echeloned along the road from Paris to Metz and Strasburg, and be under the command of Marshal Magnan.

TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCHES.

We give, in the order they have appeared, the Telegraphic Despatches of the last few days. They comprise all the important news and rumours of the week, not found under the headings of War or European News.

COAST, EVERYWHERE, 2.—The shock of an earthquake has been felt here. Broussa has been almost destroyed by an earthquake, and 2000 lives lost.

During an insurrection at Aleppo the English Consul was murdered.

VIENNA, SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 3.—The news of the death of the Emperor Nicholas, which was known here at 9 o'clock last night, has produced a great sensation. There is a vague rumour that the Russians have attacked Balaklava, but nothing is known of such an occurrence in official circles.

The whole garrison of Constantinople, the reserves, and the convalescents have left for the Crimea.

It is said that the Flagstaff Battery has been nearly destroyed by the French mines.

SCINDAY, MARCH 4.—The Archduke William, the personal friend of the new Emperor of Russia, goes to-day with an autograph letter from the Emperor of Austria to the Emperor Alexander.

The *Oesterreichische Correspondenz* contains an article praising the high qualities of the late Emperor Nicholas, and expressing a confidence that the Emperor Alexander will complete the work of peace begun by his father.

MAESTRILLES, SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 4.—The *Byzantine* merchant steamer, which left Constantinople on the 22nd ult., brings the report that the allied Generals had decided to attack the Russians under General Liprandi, and then to invest Sebastopol.

TURIN, MARCH 4.—The treaty of alliance between Sardinia, France, and England, was ratified to-day.

The *Official Gazette* publishes a manifesto of the Government relative to the accession.

The Senate has voted the convention respecting the loan by 63 votes against 27.

VIENNA, MARCH 4.—Lord John Russell and suite arrived here this evening at 8 o'clock.

BANX, MARCH 5.—A despatch from St. Petersburg announces that the full powers of Prince Gortschakoff have been renewed, and the existing basis of the peace negotiations confirmed.

VIENNA, MARCH 5.—There is a vague rumour circulated here that the Grand Duke Michael has been killed, or seriously wounded, before Sebastopol.

Her Majesty the Empress of Austria was safely delivered of a daughter at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

BERLIN, TUESDAY, MARCH 6.—The following has been received here from St. Petersburg:—

"Martial law has been declared in the Governments of Minsk and Mohilev, which are placed under the orders of Prince Gortschakoff."

"An imperial order nominates 11 general officers to the army of the south (Crimea)."

"General Adjutant Von Grünwald and Baron Von Lieven have been sent, the former to Berlin, the latter to Vienna, to notify the accession to the throne of the new emperor."

General Rüdiger has been ordered from Warsaw to St. Petersburg, to take, it is said, the chief command.

The deceased Emperor Nicholas had already recalled Prince Menschikoff from the Crimea, and given the chief command there to Prince Gortschakoff and the second to General Osten-Sacken.

Prince Menschikoff had sent the following despatch to his Government:—

"On the night between the 21st and 22nd of February we erected a redoubt on the left flank of the fortifications of Sebastopol. This was done so promptly and unexpectedly that we received no annoyance from the enemy (the allies)."

"On the night between the 24th and 25th the enemy (the allies) attacked the redoubt with considerable forces."

"Two regiments repulsed them. The enemy lost 600 men."

"The mining operations of the allies have been suspended. 'Up to the 26th of February nothing new had occurred at Eupatoria.'"

"The navigation of the Danube is again open. Eighty Austrian vessels, corn laden, had passed through."

BERLIN, MARCH 7.—The King of Denmark has been confined to his bed for a week by a severe cold, accompanied by a bad cough and slight fever.

The Volksthing has resolved to impeach the late Ministers of War, Marine, and Finance.

VIENNA, MARCH 7.—Lord John Russell had a long audience of the Emperor to-day.

Lord John Russell was present at the baptism of the young Prince.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

The Baltic fleet at Spithhead makes daily progress. The *Euryalus* screw ship arrived on March 3, and the *Nile*, 91, screw, on March 4. The *Arabia*, paddle transport, arrived at Spithhead from the Black Sea on March 3, with 294 sick and wounded men, who have been landed at Portsmouth.

From Devonport March 4, it is said the *Est* and *Nautilus* have been cruising down the Channel to relieve homeward bound ships that may have been detained by adverse winds, or, on quiet days, the South Cork Militia (infantry), now in billets at Bandon, only muster 300 bayonets, having furnished large drafts of volunteers for the line.

It was recently stated in the House of Commons that the half-pay list had been cleared of the innumerable of underserving recipients. In corroboration of which statement we would draw attention to page 408, of *Harle's Annual Army List* for last year, and the name of a gentleman will be there seen who was appointed to an ensigny 24th January, 1783, and placed on half-pay the same day. He has never worn her Majesty's uniform, and, consequently, never done one hour's duty; nevertheless he has drawn, and still continues to draw, the public money—the only labour imposed upon him by the service for upwards of seventy-two years. The fortunate individual is likewise an army agent.

Of the 129 rank and file belonging to the 63rd regiment embarked at Cork for the Crimea, on the 24th ult., 80 were under 20 years of age, and judging from their appearance it would require three years good feeding and training before they can be rendered fit to encounter the duties and hardships of a campaign. The draft of the 4th was tolerably good, and thus destined for the head-quarters of the 66th was unluckily the reverse.

ELECTIONS.

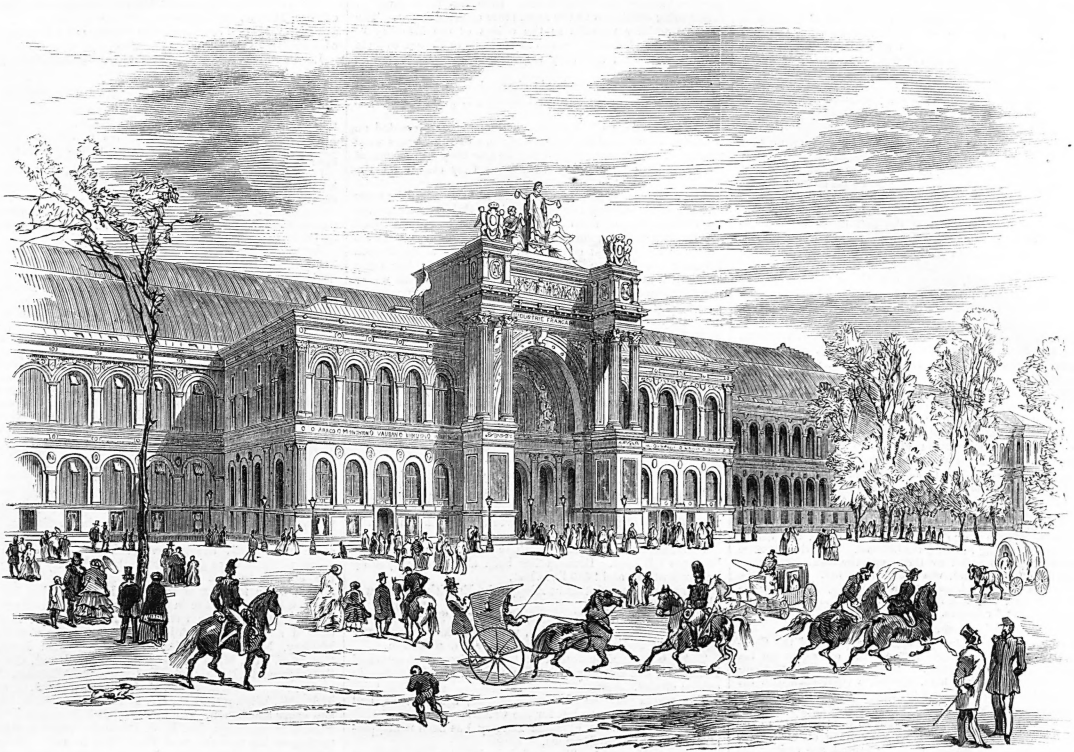
Saturday last being the day appointed by the Sheriffs for the nomination of a member to serve in Parliament in the room of Lord John Russell, the Guildhall was the scene of some excitement, though everything passed off quietly. Large placards were posted throughout the city calling upon the citizens to vote for Mr. George Antin, who, it was stated, was a member of the Corn Exchange, but his name was not even alluded to in the subsequent proceedings. At a few minutes before twelve o'clock the Great Hall was opened and very soon filled. On the platform were Mr. Hankey M.P., Mr. Philon, M.P., Mr. Alderman Rose, Mr. George Waller, Mr. Francis Bennoch, Mr. Rowe, Q.C., Mr. S. Gregson, M.P., Mr. R. W. Crawford, Alderman Humphrey, Mr. John Dillon, Mr. H. J. Prescott, Mr. J. A. Smith, M.P., Mr. Williams, M.P., Mr. P. A. Taylor, Mr. S. Morley, and other gentlemen. The proceedings being opened by Mr. Sheriff Mugeridge, Mr. H. J. Prescott presented himself to propose the re-election of Lord John Russell. He gave a brief account of the circumstances which brought Lord John into the Palmerston Cabinet, and made the present meeting necessary. He considered the Government entitled to national support, and he believed it would merit the confidence of the country. These being his convictions, he called upon the electors to support Lord Palmerston by returning Lord John as a member of his Government. The noble lord who has accepted the office as one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, desire to place upon record the fact that they have discharged this duty in the earnest hope and trust that the Government of which the noble lord is so important a member will immediately and firmly grapple with and effectually remove the causes of that disastrous mismanagement which has been displayed in the conduct of the present war, and which, whether it has arisen from adherence to routine in the departments, from the incapacity of the men presiding over or employed in them, or from the overwhelming influence of political passion, must, if left unremedied, involve the honour, the safety, and the free institutions of this country in extreme peril.

Mr. J. J. TRAVERS, in seconding the resolution, observed that the events of the last few months had proved that the people of England demanded a thorough re-organization of our military and civil services. Mr. TRAVERS supported the resolution, and expressed his surprise that the citizens of London had not been called together long ago to express their detestation of the mismanagement of the war. Notwithstanding the bravery of our gallant soldiers we had left them to die in the trenches, and had scarcely raised a voice of sympathy for them. If they believed the war had been mismanaged, Lord John was the very impersonation of that principle. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

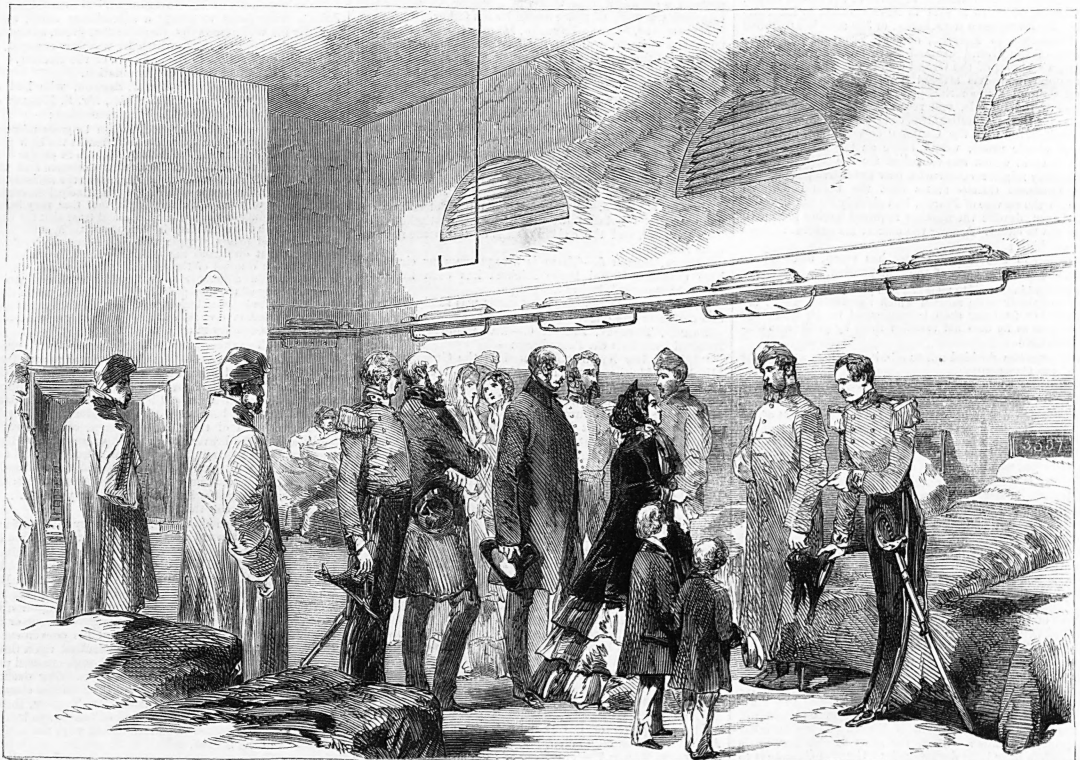
Mr. P. A. TAYLOR then moved:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting no treaty with Russia will be satisfactory that does not enforce some material territorial clause. He had no faith in a treaty of peace grounded upon the principle enunciated by Lord John Russell, who declared he did not desire to take away one inch of territory from Russia. Therefore the only guarantee for the future peace of the world was to be a parchment treaty, a treaty of obligation which Russia had always been skilful enough to evade or daring enough to destroy whenever it suited her convenience. If the British nation had been truly consulted upon this war, our allies would have been the great though crushed peoples of Italy, Hungary, and Poland.—The SHERIFF declined to put this resolution, as he considered the business closed with the resolution of the previous one.—Mr. TAYLOR, therefore, put it himself, and a large number of hands was held up in its favour.—The proceedings terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the Sheriff."

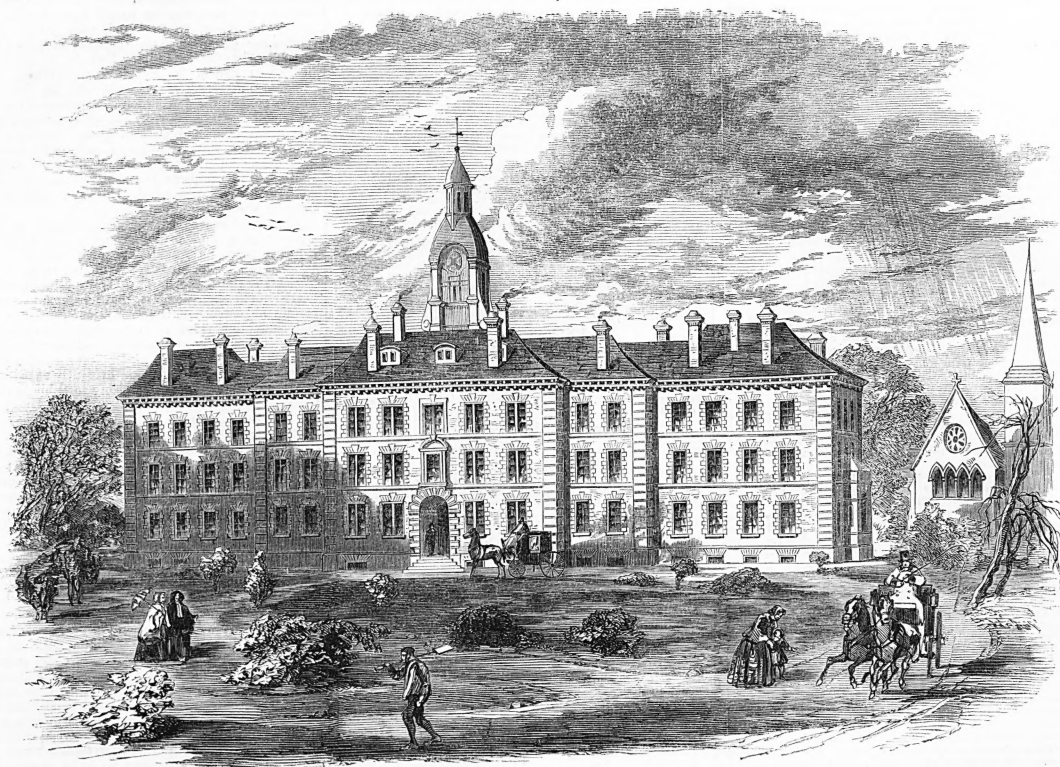
At HALIFAX, Sir Charles Wood, the First Lord of the Admiralty, has been re-elected without opposition. He ad-



NEW PALACE OF INDUSTRY AT PARIS. (See page 76.)



HER MAJESTY AT BROMPTON HOSPITAL. (See page 76.)



CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL. (See page 77.)



POST OF COSSACKS—AFTER RAFFET.

pressed his constituents at considerable length on the present state of affairs, on which, however, he managed to throw but little light, ascribing the present war, with all its fatal consequences, to the "overweening ambition of the Emperor of Russia," concluding with a prayer that the summoning of the Emperor to his last account might prove productive of inestimable blessings to Europe and to the rest of the world.

STROUT.—On Tuesday Mr. Horsman was re-elected for the borough without opposition. He said that he hoped the "cold shade of the aristocracy" would be long withdrawn. This, he thought, would come out in the inquiry on Mr. Roebuck's motion. Our system was at fault—the average age of the French generals was under 45 years, while the average age of ours was over 65. The fact being that our generals did not obtain their office till they were incapable for its duties.

At Northampton, the new President of the Board of Control, the Right Hon. R. V. Smith; at RADNOR, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir G. C. Lewis; and at STIRLING, Mr. Peter Blackburn, have also been returned without opposition.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

In MANCHESTER a very crowded and influential meeting was held, on Monday last, for the reorganization and independence of Poland, both as an act of justice and as the only means for securing the permanent peace of Europe. Resolutions were passed and a petition to Parliament unanimously adopted, setting forth the same objects. At HASTINGS, on March 5, resolutions were passed advocating military reform.

A PUBLIC MEETING OF MANUFACTURERS AND OTHERS was held at the London Tavern on March 6, to adopt such steps as might be deemed advisable to oppose the objectionable clauses of the Public Health Bill of 1855, and of the Nuisance Removal Bill, now before Parliament.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF BIRMINGHAM was held at the Public Office on Tuesday, for a similar purpose, and a resolution agreed to, authorizing the General Purposes Committee to offer every opposition to the "despotic measure." The ratayers of Birmingham likewise held a meeting on the same subject in the evening. The scheme was denounced as tyrannical, iniquitous, and every way destructive to local self-government.

THE SECOND WEEKLY PEACE MEETING was held in the Room of the Peace Society at Manchester, on Tuesday. The principal speakers were Mr. Bright, Mr. R. H. Greg, Mr. Joseph Sturge, and Mr. P. R. Arrowsmith.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCRIPTURE READERS' ASSOCIATION met on Wednesday evening at the Brixton National School Room. Sir Walter R. Farquhar, Bart., presided.

RIOTS AT THE DIGGINGS.

As an appendix to the article which appeared in our last number, respecting the disturbances at Ballarat, we give the following particulars:—

About four o'clock on Sunday morning, Dec. 3, the military surrounded the camp formed by the armed diggers at Eureka, in which there were about 200 men. A body of mounted troopers fired over the heads of the diggers, and then the troops poured in repeated volleys, which were returned by the diggers. After firing for about ten minutes, the insurgents pulled down their banner—the Southern Cross—and surrendered. The troops immediately ceased firing, 125 prisoners were taken, and about 25 killed. A large number of tents in the vicinity of the battle-field were burnt, and many persons have been arrested—among others, Mr. Seekamp, of the *Ballarat Times*. According to the latest accounts, the insurrection appeared to be at an end.

Two *Goverment Gazette Extraordinary* were issued on Dec. 5—the one in the morning, proclaiming martial law within the district of Buninyong to be in full force from and after 12 at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 6, but it was especially declared that no sentence of death should be carried into execution without His Excellency's express consent; and the other, in the afternoon, appealing to the colonists, as faithful and loyal subjects, to support the governor in preserving the peace.

DESTITUTION IN THE HIGHLANDS.

The accounts which have recently appeared in some of the Scotch papers respecting the state of the poor inhabitants in the West Highlands, are of an alarming character. We are told that their condition is well nigh desperate, and that all private and local exertions to alleviate the sufferings of the Highlanders are quite inadequate. In Glasgow the benevolently disposed have, through their active superintendent, Mr. Donald Ross, expended and accounted for £1,547. 16s. 6d., extending over the period from Feb. 1852 to Nov. 1854. We give the following extracts from letters. They will tell their own sad tale.

From a minister's wife in the Island of Mull, Feb. 13:—"We are exceedingly thankful for the bountiful supply of food you sent by the last steamer. It is in good time to relieve much distress. Many were subsisting on one meal a day, and that borrowed from their neighbours; and some were trying to sell their blankets, although the weather is colder than for several winters before."

A clergyman in Skye, writing on the 6th of February, says:—"The poor people among whom the meal was distributed were quite content with the least quantity. We find always, when they are not brought to last extreme, that they manifest some little discontent; but now, owing to their great poverty, there is nothing of this spirit of discontent discovered—they are thankful for the smallest supply."

The Free Church minister of Bracadale says:—"Matters are becoming desperate here, and will be forced upon you by public attention; and in another letter, acknowledging the receipt of meal and money, he says, 'That at no former period since the parish became inhabited to the extent of the present population, has there been so small a quantity of food in it.'"

The Sheriff at Fort William, writing on the 24th of February, acknowledging the receipt of a quantity of meal and flour, says:—"I do not believe that there ever was a greater amount of destitution among the poor here than at present."

A letter from Harris says:—"The people here are not half so destitute in 1848-49 as they are at this moment. They are to be seen in crowds repairing to the seashore in quest of shellfish, and when they can not get them they begin to pick 'ducks.' The crop is entirely exhausted. What was intended for seed is already consumed."

THE CIVIL HOSPITAL IN THE EAST has the following staff:—Medical Superintendent, Dr. Meyer; Physicians, Drs. John Barclay, Gibbons, Leitch, and Tait; Surgeons, Drs. John Bell, Martin, Holleshead, Wilkinson, Barnes, Wood; Surgeons, Messrs. Holmes, Coote, Holthouse, Macleod, Wells, Wordsworth; Assistant Surgeons, Messrs. Atkinson, Compden, Eddowes, Falconer, Hulke, Hornidge, Lakin, Jardine, McDonnell, Stratfield; Resident Medical Officer, Dr. Ranke; Head Dispenser, Mr. Frewthill.

THE FUNDS AND THE MONEY MARKET.

The extraordinary rise which took place in the English funds, on Saturday last, in consequence of the reported death of the Emperor of Russia, was not fully maintained on Monday, yet the market sustained itself with much firmness. Speculations on the future prospects of peace were freely made, in accordance with the interests of parties, but nothing definite on this point could be possibly known at so early a date. Consols opened at 93½ to 94, and subsequently receded to 93½, and closed at 93½ to 94, for money; and at 93½ to 94, for the account. The principal dealings were in connection with the settlement, the sudden rise having taken the "beats" by surprise. Bank Stock 215 to 216. Reduced 93½ to 94; New Three-per-Cents 94 to 95; Long Annuities 41; India Stock 221 to 224; India Bonds 10s. to 14s. premium; Exchequer Bills 3s. to 8s. premium; and Exchequer Bonds 99½ to 100.

There was rather an easier feeling in the money market, but the number of second-class bills returned on the third was very considerable. The corn market, in Mark Lane, was exceedingly heavy, and sales could not be effected except at a decline of 3s. to 4s. a quarter.

In the foreign stock market there was more animation than for some time past, and Turkish was done as high as 79½, the last price was 79 to 80. Russian five was nominally from 90 to 100.

THURSDAY EVENING. This has been settling day in the English Stock Market, which has principally occupied the attention of dealers; business has, therefore, been quiet; the rate for "continuations" has, however, been from ¼ to 3-16 per cent. Consols opened at 93½ to 94, and closed at 92½ to 93 for money, and 93½ for the 11th of April.

The following Tables show the latest official quotations, up to the day of going to press, in the English and Foreign Funds, &c.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

Bank Stock	215, 214½	Long Annuities	41, 5-16
3 p. Ct. Red. An.	93½, 93, 93½	India Bonds	£1000
3 p. Ct. Consols An.	93½, 93, 93½	Do. under £1000	136 10 pm.
Do. for Account 93½, 93, 93½		Excheq. Bills, £1000, 2½ d.	3 to 8 pm.
New 3 p. Ct. An.	shut	Do. 5000	5 to 8 pm.
New 2½ p. Ct. An.	92½	Exchequer Bonds	99½
3 p. Ct. An.	93½		

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian 5 p. Ct.	—	Mexican 3 p. Ct.	205, ¼
Belgian 4½ p. Ct.	—	Persian 4½ p. Ct.	79½, 5 d.
Brazilian 5 p. Ct.	—	Do. 3 p. Ct.	—
Do. 4½ p. Ct.	—	Portuguese 5 p. Ct.	—
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Ct.	—	Do. 4 p. Ct.	—
Chilian 6 p. Ct.	—	Russian 5 p. Ct.	—
Do. 5 p. Ct.	103½	Do. 4½ p. Ct.	85½, 6 d.
Danish 5 p. Ct.	—	Sevillian 3 p. Ct.	18½
Do. 3 p. Ct.	—	Do. New Deferred	—
Do. 2½ p. Ct.	62½	Do. 4½ p. Ct.	79½, 3, 9, 5, 80
Do. 4 p. Ct. Certif.	—	Swedish 4 p. Ct.	—
French Rentes 4½ p. Ct.	—	Swiss 3½ p. Ct.	—
Do. 3 p. Ct.	—		

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account for the week ending on Saturday, February 24th, 1855.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued	£26,362,055
Government Debt	£11,015,100
Other Securities	2,984,900
Gold and Bullion	12,362,055
Silver Bullion	—
	£26,362,055

BANKING DEPARTMENT.	
Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	£3,903,241
Other Deposits	4,855,455
Seven days and other bills	10,449,182
	£34,044,728

Dated the 1st day of March, 1855.

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.



THE TZAR NICHOLAS.

WHILE the Emperor of all the Russias was alive, it was customary to exhaust declamatory commonplaces in denunciation of him and his evil deeds. It now becomes us to judge him more calmly and more justly, though sternly adhering the sentimental slang of a spurious charity.

Born on the 7th July, 1796, and dying on the 2nd March, 1855, Nicholas having succeeded his brother Alexander on the 1st December, 1825, had passed just the half of his life on the throne. The earlier years of his reign were marked by grand and rapid successes.

When the passions and excitements of the moment have passed, among those successes will be found to have been the only remarkable part of his career. There is first the war with Persia, which if it did not bring glory brought infinite gain to Russia. There was then, immediately after, the war with Turkey, which by prompt and crushing blows hurled Turkey to the verge of ruin. And there was lastly the bloody suppression of Poland's heroic uprising. When this tragedy had been fairly played out, and when Poland had once more been manacled, Russia seemed to confess herself exhausted. During the twenty years that followed, she substantially lost power and influence in Europe. She shared in the Quadruple Alliance; she sent forth hosts of spies and diplomatists; she is engaged against the British Empire in India; she gave her hand to kiss to servile Germany; but she neither ventured on a bold political movement nor any vast military enterprise, and as her treatment of Poland had made her hated, so the victories of the Circassians had made her despised. If the Emperor Nicholas had been a man of genius, a man of true

courage and sagacity, he would have fought for the things that Russia most coveted, when Russia had them within her grasp. By the disasters of Persia the way was opened to British India. Nicholas proved how little he had in him of the Napoleon by shrinking from the gigantic conflict. The sympathy with the Greeks thirty years ago, and the detestation everywhere of the Turkish name and the Turkish rule, offered Constantinople as an easy conquest to the Russian arms. Nicholas had not brain for the work. When Russia gave her ostentatious aid to Austria in 1849, she was simply obeying her instincts of despotism; but as far as her own interests were ultimately concerned, she was committing the grossest blunder.

The two chief elements in the character of Nicholas were cunning and brutal self-will. If he had been a gifted man, he would have seen that, having risen through conquest, Russia could not safely for an instant intermit conquest. Almost the only praise that we can heartily offer at his tomb is, that he seems to have had a certain abhorrence of the corruption, especially the official corruption, that so extensively prevailed in his dominions, and that he generally chose, where he could discover them, the fittest and ablest instruments. But reform in Russia itself he was evidently as incapable of accomplishing as he was of rising to sublime and comprehensive schemes for rendering Russia omnipotent in the affairs of the world. No human being has ever, perhaps, done so much mischief, or caused so much sorrow, nor can we believe that this was only from that German dullness which was the basis of his nature. There was, also, a fiendish malignity in his character, sufficiently evidenced by that horrible endorsement of the petition for mercy from one sentenced to Siberia—that mere wanton aggravation of cruelty—let the journey be done "on foot." Nevertheless, to him the universe was only a large bureaucracy protected by a police, and he aspired to govern Russia as he supposed a god might govern such a universe. His red tape was thicker and broader than that of our Whigships, but it was the same red tape notwithstanding. Except when his ferocities burst forth unchecked, he was the most abject slave of routine. His death is less notable in connection with the present war than in relation to that system of sham government of which he was the minor representative and upholder. As we are now contemplating in England the last of our Aristocratic Ministries, so we behold in Nicholas the last of the kings who believe that they can rule a nation through simple parchment and pedantries, even though the parchment be cut into strips to form a knot.

Poor mortal, he will issue no more ukases; but his memory will be a long and invincible ukase against the idiotic dream that Nature will bend her mighty realities to the whims of a stolid German professor, even if he happen to be upon a throne. One charlatanism was vanquished when Louis Philippe was driven into exile; a charlatanism more odious still has just perished at Saint Petersburg. We will write no eulogies on this wretched Romanoff, but smile even with some pity upon him as a defeated Imperial Castiglione!—First-rate drum-major, second-rate policeman, third-rate bureaucrat, fourth-rate monarch, and not even fifth-rate man,—one more who has descended into the tomb; and Humanity, whatever clouds, diplomatic or other, yet hide the future, may rejoice,—for the Russian autocracy is broken. Good must come of this tyrant's death, be who will his heir. If Alexander the Pacific, he must step, he it never so hesitatingly, on the path of constitutionalism towards the higher conditions of freedom; if Constantine the Warlike, he will but fail, as Nicholas has failed, and pull down upon his head that dread of even his haughty sire,—the wrath of revolutionary Europe.

ARMY REFORM.

THE cry for reformation in our military system is echoed throughout the United Kingdom. Few of our readers may be aware that the manifold objectionable points calling loudly for redress have again and again, during years past, been openly promulgated. Gross injustice and favouritism have long since been exposed, but it is only now that the nation has cared to investigate and ascertain the existence of the evils under which the army suffers.

That the interior working of our army is bad cannot be denied, and as long as its organization is confined to the absolute will and pleasure of imbecile old generals, so long must it prove a field from whence a splendid harvest of patronage can be reaped to the benefit of a few.

If thorough reformation is seriously intended, the object can only be gained by striking at the root of the primary evil. It is not intended to make invidious remarks or canvass the merits of individuals in this journal. We merely speak of facts, and none can deny but that for upwards of a quarter of a century the army has been commanded by officers long past the period for activity, either of mind or body. The service requires at its head something beyond the reminiscence of long past achievements. The halo of glory that encircled the warrior's brow fifty years past, may shine as brightly as ever by his own fireside surrounded by his domestic circle. Reward an officer for good and faithful service if you please, for well does he merit distinction. But when age enfeebles both frame and intellect, why place him in a position demanding the full power of every mental quality, when he is only a feeble old man? Such was the case with the Duke of Wellington. Had not his untamable obstinacy rejected every innovation on the old system, our army would have kept pace in improvement with those of other European countries. Now we

In cruel jest, some persons of Harcanville (Seine-Inferieure) taunted a farmer named Guillotin about the fidelity of his wife. On this he went home, took his double-barrelled gun, and deliberately wounded her in the face and breast, though not seriously.

DUPONT DE L'EURE.

Dupont de l'Eure, a practising barrister of Normandy, was two-and-twenty years of age when the first French revolution burst forth. As an honest and convinced patriot he embraced its principles. In turn administrator of the district of Louviers, judge at the tribunal of that town, commissary of the executive directory at the civil tribunal of Eure, public accuser at the criminal tribunal of the same department, member of the Council of Five Hundred, councillor at the Court of Appeal, of Rouen, and afterwards president of the criminal tribunal at Evreux, Dupont de l'Eure nobly served the Republic until the proclamation of the Empire. Then he went away from business and lived in retirement, leaving behind him the memory of a man of the purest integrity who had ever passed through the tempestuous epoch of the revolution. But such a fine character could not be lost for his country.

In 1811, Dupont de l'Eure was named president of chambre of the Imperial Court of Rouen, and member of the Legislative Assembly, where he still sat in 1813 and in 1814. The first restoration found in him one of its most persevering adversaries. Vice-president of the Chamber of Representatives during the "hundred days," he protested against the return of a government imposed by foreigners and did not retire from the legislative palace until its doors were closed upon him by force.

Having, in 1817, re-entered the Chamber of Deputies, with all his democratic convictions, Dupont de l'Eure was removed from his place of president at the court of Rouen. From this moment his life was nothing more than a perpetual holocaust offered to the freedom of his country. He became the centre of that opposition of the fifteen, whose struggles were the final cause of the downfall of the elder branch of the Bourbons.

On the eventful day of the 4th March, 1825, when the deputy, Manuel, was expelled from the Assembly, Dupont de l'Eure protested with all the might of his patriotism against the outrage done to the inviolability of the national representation.

After the revolution of July, public acclamation and the instances of his friends won him over, notwithstanding his reluctance to accept the portfolio of the ministry of justice. He contended at first in the council against the reactionary tendencies of Louis Philippe; but when he saw the dynasty alone was changed in France, not the system, he shook off the influence of his former friends who wished to retain him in power, broke off with the royalty of July, reoccupied his place in the ranks of the opposition, and showed himself, on all occasions, the irreconcilable adversary of the politics of the last reign, and one of the most forward champions of reform.

Of a serious mind, of an elevated and pure intelligence, full of penetration, ever ready for great sacrifices and great endeavours, but incapable of shifting with human passions, Dupont de l'Eure approved only of plain and frank attitudes. He disdained the calculations, intrigues, and evasions of coteries. Anything beside an active and declared opposition was repugnant to his conscience. He therefore loudly condemned the inconstancy and pusillanimity of even those who shared the better part of his affection. Lafayette, Lafayette, and Odilon Barrot, for whom he felt a paternal kindness, had often to suffer the censure of his stubborn



DUPONT DE L'EURE.

coup d'état of the 2nd of December, in a modest country house belonging to his family, has closed his eyes for ever, sustained alone by the glorious hope of a future deliverance for that country he so well loved and so devotedly served!

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

LORD MAYOR'S DINNER TO THE GARRICK CLUB.

Our engraving (p. 68) represents the grand banquet given in the Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House, on Saturday, by the Lord Mayor to the members of the Garrick Club (to which his Lordship belongs). Covers were laid for more than 250. Among the visitors were Lord Tenterden, Vice-President of the Club; the Earl of Carlisle, the American Minister, Lord William Lennox, the Hon. and Rev. Fitzroy Stanhope, the Chief Baron, Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Tom Taylor, Mr. Shirley Brooks, Mr. Harrison Ainsworth, Mr. D. Roberts, Mr. Stansfield, Mr. Maclean, Mr. Douglas Jerrold, Mr. M. Lemon, Mr. Harley, Mr. Buckstone, Mr. Leigh Murray, Mr. Albert Smith, Mr. S. Lover, &c. The guests generally were gentlemen connected with literature and art, and the occasion being considered strictly private, the speeches were rather on social than public topics. Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Buckstone, the American Minister, and the Earl of Carlisle were the principal speakers.

THE HEADS OF THE ROMANOFFS (p. 65); FRENCH SOLDIERS MAKING COFFEE (p. 68); A POST OF COSSACKS, AFTER RAFFET (p. 73); and the Selection of Curiosities from Marlborough House, forming part of the Exhibition at Birmingham, need only to be mentioned. It may, perhaps, be well to state that the SILVER-GILT TASKARD is of Augsburg workmanship, date about 1700; and that the PENDANT ORNAMENTS are Italian Cinque Cento.

FRENCH SAPEURS-POMPIERS.

A brigade of French Sapeurs-Pompiers, or firemen, has just left Paris for Constantinople, to look after the French hospitals and magazines. Our engraving (page 69) shows them as they proceeded to the Lyons Railway, a few nights back, in their ordinary uniforms, with carbine, sabre, knapsack, and "cutting-cup," accompanied by their families and friends.

PEREKOP.

Perekop, or in the Tatar language Or-Kapi, is the first inhabited place of the Crimea, properly so called. The lines of fortifications are thrown across the whole breadth of the isthmus, here about eight and a-half versts in width. As the Russian word Perekop signifies an intrenchment, the Tatar name Or-Kapi denotes the gate of the line, or fortification. Until the recent formation of the military road across the Putrid Sea and along the narrow isthmus of Arabat, the only land entrance to the Crimea was by the gate in the centre of these lines.



PENDANT ORNAMENTS, FROM MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.

THE NEW PALACE OF INDUSTRY AT PARIS.

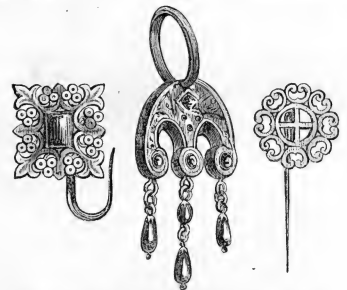
We present our readers with a design of the principal entrance and front of the Palace erected in the Champs Elysees, at Paris, for the Grand Exhibition, which is to open on the 1st of May next. The French name of the building is "Le Palais de l'Industrie." The edifice is sometimes called in the newspapers the "Crystal Palace," but this is a mistake, as it is constructed of stone, the roof alone being of iron.

The grand entrance is in the form of a triumphal arch, with columns of the Corinthian order. The arch occupies the entire height of the building. It is surmounted by a statue of Fame, with her arms extended; she is supposed to be distributing rewards to art and manufactures. On each side of the statue, at the angles, are the Imperial arms, cut in stone. The ornamentation of the arch is chaste and simple; the most prominent feature in it is the initials N. E. (Napoleon and Eugénie.)

The palace is of two stories, and of six pavilions. Its exterior length is 254½ metres (the French metre is rather more than 3 feet), its width is 110 metres 40 centimetres, and it covers a superficies of 28,085 metres. In the middle is a principal grand hall, 192 metres long, 48 wide, and 92½ in superficies. The galleries are formed by columns in cast iron. The lateral galleries on the ground floor are 24 metres wide, 9 high, and cover 18,072 metres. The upper galleries are of the same extent, but only 19 metres high. The height of the edifice in the centre is very nearly 35 metres. Of the six pavilions, one to the north is 67 metres 10 centimetres in length; 20 metres, 49 centimetres in width; the corresponding pavilion, on the south side, is 51 metres, 20 centimetres in length, and 10 metres in width; the four pavilions at the corners are 34 metres 10 centimetres long, and 14 metres 30 centimetres wide. The number of windows on the ground floor is 280; and on the first story 318. At each end of the building is a large window, which is an immense window which is to receive painted glass, representing designs appropriate to the purpose for which the building is destined. Above the ground-floor windows, on the outside, are medallions of the men of all countries, and all ages, who have distinguished themselves in art, or manufactures; and the names of the men are cut in the stone. The internal arrangements of the building, and the access and descent from the galleries are made with a due regard for convenience; they are of such a nature that it is supposed 20,000 persons can circulate easily. The interior decoration is progressing, and will be very elegant.

Round the edifice a handsome iron railing is to run; and in front of it are to be two gardens or parterres, each between 60 and 70 yards long, and 12 wide, and each containing *jets d'eau* and basins.

Vast as the building is, it will not suffice for the immense number of exhibitors who have demanded space. Accordingly it has been necessary to build annexes. One of these consists in an immense structure on the Quai de la Conférence behind the main building. This structure, commencing near the Pont de la Concorde, runs to near the new bridge of the Alma, now in course of construction; its length is 1200 metres. It is in wood and plaster; has a gallery throughout its whole extent, and has three pavilions. Its roof, which is supported by iron columns, is in glass. Another annex is being built in the Avenue Montaigne; it is also of wood and plaster. The first annex is destined exclusively for machines, many of which will be set in motion by steam-engines; the



ANTIQUE ROMAN JEWELS—BARRETTE AND BROOCHES, FROM MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.

SILVER-GILT TASKARD, FROM MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.

virtue. His whole character was similar. In philosophy, religion, politics, as a private or a public man, he showed himself one who never yielded to circumstances, although he might not always control them. Towards the end of the reign of Louis Philippe, Dupont de l'Eure was seized with a mortal disgust at the political men of that period. Full of melancholy, after having survived so many tempests, he sought in vain an asylum for liberty. "The burden of life too heavy on him."

However, God had preserved that great and serious popularity to imprint on republican France the seal of morality and virtue. The 24th of February, 1848, mingled with the crowd of deputies, Dupont de l'Eure was perceived by the armed people. A tremendous acclamation designated him as the chief of the Provisional Government. The voice of the people saluted in him the legitimacy and sanctity of the Revolution. But he, unmimposed by the fascination of power, resisted going to the chair to which he was called, when a voice insinuated that near by the popular urn a danger might exist, and the scaffold of monarchy shortly be erected for those who had fought for freedom. Then was to be seen a venerable old man, of a grave and austere countenance, though open, mild, and affable, who descended from his place, went across the crowd leaning on the arms of two combatants, and ascending slowly the steps of the tribune, took his place with simplicity, and in a firm tone of voice proclaimed, by the right of the sovereign people, the names of the members of the Provisional Government; the fall of the monarchy, and the advent of the Republic.

At the age of 82 years he possessed a lucidity of mind, a firmness of judgment, an independence of character, and a physical courage without example in a man of his advanced age.

"Let the Revolution triumph," said he, at the end of each assembly, "let the republic be founded on the indestructible basis of justice and liberty, let me be allowed in dying to see my country happy, and I shall have nothing to desire."

This wish, so pure and so disinterested, has not been granted to him, and the illustrious veteran of Democracy, secluded since the

second is to be appropriated to works of art. In addition to the avenues, new galleries are to be raised in the main building.

The opening of the Exhibition will decidedly take place on the 1st of May, as originally designed. Every European country, with the exception of Russia, most American ones, and many Asiatic ones, will exhibit;—even Africa will occupy a distinguished place. The Exhibition will be greatly superior to that of London. In the first place, the exhibitors will be far more numerous; in the next, greater severity will be displayed in the selection of goods; in the third, there will be far greater variety; and lastly, and above all, there will be a collection of the best works of the most distinguished living artists of all countries.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO CHATHAM HOSPITALS.

On Saturday morning Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by Prince Alfred, the Duke of Cambridge, the Prince of Wales, and Prince Alfred, paid a visit to the Fort Pitt and Brompton Hospitals at Chatham. The object of the visit was to convince the sympathy of the Royal family for those sick and wounded soldiers from the army in the East, who having been sent home for the benefit of their health, have been received in these establishments.

The Royal visitors, attended by the military authorities of Chatham, and the medical officers of the two hospitals, made the round of all the wards except those containing fever cases. Her Majesty addressed kind inquiries to many of the wounded men, those who were well enough to be up receiving her at the foot of their respective cots with cards in their hands, specifying the nature of their wounds, and in what action received. In Fort Pitt Hospital there are 197 patients, and in that of Brompton Barracks, which has been recently established, and is supplemental to Fort Pitt, there are 164. Dr. Dartnall and the medical authorities were complimented on the evident care with which they had tended their patients.

After driving through the barracks, the Queen and suite passed through the High Street for the railway station, from whence she departed at 38 minutes past one o'clock, amidst the cheers of a

large concourse of the townspeople. "The surgeons say that her Majesty's visit to-day will cure more men than all the hospital care and attention could possibly accomplish."

A trustworthy military correspondent makes the following comment on Her Majesty's visit:—"As is too often the case, the object of the visit was defeated by its being known *two days before*, and of course holiday gear was displayed wherever she was permitted to inspect matters. The wounded and sick under treatment in hospital, she saw only, and there little fault was to be found. But the convalescents are dunged in St. Mary's casemates, where, if they go in tolerably well, they come out irretrievably ill, from damp and impurity of atmosphere—air there is none; and the quarters are in a most filthy state. The unfortunates huddled in those cells were kept out of sight; the Queen was not allowed to see them. I wish Mr. Stafford would visit St. Mary's Creek, without notice, and satisfy himself that the filthiest village in Turkey, is a drawing-room compared with those quarters."

CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL.

The City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, in Victoria Park (see *Illustration*, page 73), is just about to be opened; and the opening was rather anticipectively celebrated on Wednesday last by a dinner at the London Tavern. Earl Carlisle, the chairman, stated that the building would be ready for out-patients on the 12th of March, for in-patients about a month later. There are to be 40 beds, and unlimited out-door accommodation. The amount expended up to the present time is £24,000, and the debt incurred is £12,000. £3700 was subscribed towards meeting this before the company separated.

REMAINS OF BLACK FRIARS MONASTERY.

Since the discovery of the remains appertaining to the Monastery of Black Friars, given in our paper of last week, a large arch has been brought to light, of which the annexed cut is a representation. The span of the arch is about twelve feet. It can not have been one of the four gates which gave entrance to the friary precinct, as the natural level of the gravel



ROMAN POTTERIES.

which here composes the soil is above the spring of the arch, consequently, it is to be concluded that the arch had covered a subterranean passage—perhaps a water-course or an ancient sewer, probably the latter. This supposition is corroborated by discoveries made in an excavation for a stove room at the office of the *Times*, where a large mass of the ancient wall was laid bare, upon which remains of the monastery appeared as they had been founded upon the wall, and by the side of the wall was found an ancient sewer running in the direction of the Thames. It seems very probable that the arch above mentioned has been a portion of the same sewer, and from the style of its construction it appears to have been turned about the time of Edward I., contemporaneously with the monastery of the Black Friars.

The fragment of London wall remains *in situ* under the *Times* office, its demolition having been found too laborious an undertaking. The vestiges of the Monastery consist of the bases of columns, probably belonging to a door of the edifice, and large stones inserted in the wall, which latter is evidently of Roman construction.

As the excavation proceeds articles of antiquarian interest continue to be turned up. Among these are a mediæval vessel, fragments of Roman pottery, ancient glass, tusks of boars, horns of goats, and a quantity of bones; these are represented in the accompanying cut. There have, likewise, been found several Roman coins, and a remarkable Abbey token, which by the badge it bears—the *Agnus Dei*—appears to have been a token of the house of the knights of St. John of Clerkenwell.

NEW STREET POST FOR LETTERS.

The first of these new street letter-boxes was placed on Monday last at the corner of Fleet Street and Faringdon Street. It is a pillar of cast-iron, about four feet high and two wide, with an opening for the reception of letters immediately under the moulding at the top, so planned to protect the opening from the rain. The pillar is an object of vast amusement to our London gamins, who are continually examining it from every possible point of view—some gazing into the opening, whilst occasionally one more ventures will mount, and, clinging to the knob which surmounts the top, proclaim his determination to take any number of letters anywhere, at the small charge of one penny each.



REMAINS OF BLACK FRIARS MONASTERY.

THEATRES AND MUSIC.

DRURY LANE.—We return, after a second hearing, to "L'Etoile du Nord," to speak, as we promised, more particularly of the music and of the manner of its performance here; and we will at once confess that we are not more disposed to be laudatory of the music than we were at the first hearing. By some critics, we are aware, it is cried up to the skies; its very defects are esteemed beauties—its want of melody is considered dramatic—mere noise is pronounced grand; and excessive difficulty sublime; and if we venture to dissent from their dictum, we are told that the performance at this theatre does not enable us to judge. Such critics seem to think that an opera cannot be worth hearing unless sung by some half-dozen of the finest vocalists in Europe, accompanied by an orchestra to match; and they are excruciated by any less perfect performance. Surely such fastidious gentlemen should, in mercy to themselves, stay away from more vulgar exhibitions; or, if the

torture is an excitement—akin to the moth's insane desire of rushing into a flame—which they cannot do without, they should, in mercy to others, refrain from publishing an account of their sufferings; for, so far as it has any effect, it can only have the mischievous one of deterring sensible people from cultivating what musical faculty may be in them, when they see to what deplorable results it leads. We do not for a moment pretend that the singing here is comparable to that of the half-dozen we have referred to; but we are convinced that it is sufficiently good to enable any one with an ordinary amount of musical knowledge to judge of the character of the music, and to enjoy its beauties. But even if it were not so, what is the great mass of the world to do, who can not hear that half-dozen, and yet want to know what "L'Etoile du Nord," of which they have heard so much, is like? Like wise people, that being unattainable, they take the best they can get; and if opportunity should come for hearing the half-dozen, they will enjoy it all the more from the familiarity with the music they have gained by witnessing the performance here. To us it appears that the beauties are fewer and farther between in this than in the other operas of M. Meyerbeer. *Catherine's* song, and the quintet in the tent-scene, may be specified as the most favourable specimens; but the excessive difficulty, and still more the thoroughly unvoiced character of much of the music allotted to the singers, make us very doubtful if any vocalists in the world could render it effective; while the absence of anything worth while calling melody, combined with tremendous noise, in some of the orchestral effects, can only be paralleled by the blaring din of a country fair. Of the performers we incline to speak on the whole very favourably. Mr. Drayton is not a singer after our heart—he reminds us too often of Mr. Paul Bedford, and not in his best days—but he is earnest and energetic, and did his best for a most ungrateful part. Miss Jenny Baur is sprightly and ambitious—the dashes at difficulties, and sometimes sacrifices intonation in the attempt; her trio with the two flutes was a very creditable display of vocalization. Mrs. Drayton is an excellent singer, and has a thinish, nicely-toned voice; and as she is also a pleasing actress, she will be an acquisition in a lighter opera, and a smaller theatre. Of the two new tenors, Messrs. Rowler and Miranda, we can also speak favourably. The former had most to do in this opera, and did it effectively—he only wants point to become a favourite; the latter gentleman won an encore for his only song, and has since appeared successfully as *Tom Tug*, in "The Waterman," which has been reproduced for him. We were glad to see Mr. Leffler again, and to hear his beautiful voice, though he had nothing worthy of him to sing. Mr. T. Williams sang his part in two or three little duets very nicely. The opera went off altogether better than on our first hearing, and the house we were pleased to see was



ABBEY TOKENS.

fuller. To Mr. Reynoldson's libretto we cannot award much praise—the words fall as awkwardly to some of the music as can well be conceived.

LYCEUM.—"Aggravating Sam" and "Prince Prettypet" have given place, and on Monday a comediotta from the French, in two acts, called "Take that Girl away" was produced, the incidents of which are of the most extravagant description. The piece owes its name to the fact of *Mr. Poddie* (Miss M. Oliver) insisting upon his daughter *Isabel* (Miss M. Oliver) passing her time in the balcony of his house at Notting Hill for the benefit of the air, much to the annoyance of his opposite neighbour, *Mr. Rocket* (Mr. C. Mathews), an artist, who complains that the young lady's perpetual presence there distracts his attention, and requests the father to "take that girl away." In the course of the alterations that arise, *Rocket* falls in love with *Isabel*, but she being betrothed to *Mr. Scollap* (Mr. Swan), the proprietor of an oyster-bed, *Mr. Poddie* absolutely rejects the artist's proposals. A scuffle ensues, in which *Rocket* teigs to be mortally wounded; and, while the men rush off in consternation for medical assistance, he wheels off *Isabel*, who has fainted in a chair. In the second act we find that *Rocket* has locked *Isabel* in one of his rooms, and that *Poddie* has locked him in another. An amicable arrangement takes place, it being agreed that *Rocket* shall marry *Isabel*, and that *Scollap* shall have *Jenny* (Miss Mason), a younger daughter. No sooner, however, is this arrangement settled than *Rocket*, finding *Isabel* too docile, tries to set *Scollap* against *Jenny*, in order to induce him to resume his former engagement. *Jenny* overhears this conversation, and her anger completely wins the heart of *Rocket*, who thereupon persuades the father to consent that *Jenny*, and not *Isabel*, shall be his wife, but to this *Jenny* will by no means agree; and finally, as *Isabel's* indignation wins back the heart which her sister's anger had estranged, the curtain falls on the union of *Rocket* with *Isabel*, and *Scollap* with *Jenny*. The piece owes its success entirely to the inimitable acting of Mr. C. Mathews, whose untiring vivacity and animal spirits carry everything before them.

ST. JAMES'S.—A melodrama, called "The Northern Star," adapted from the French by Mr. Markwell, was brought out on Monday. The name has been adopted, doubtless, on account of the popularity of "L'Etoile du Nord," but the story is not the same, though still Russian. The *Empress* has an intrigue with the *Chevalier de la Rosiere*, and his visits being discovered, but not the object, the ladies of the court are questioned, when the *Princess Alczina*, to screen the *Empress*, avows that the visit was to her. Upon hearing this, the *Tsar* orders the *Chevalier* to marry her; but his suspicions being again aroused, *La Rosiere*



NEW STREET POST FOR LETTERS.

the tinsel of an imported civilization the native and barbaric splendour of his court. In July, 1817, he married Charlotte Louisa, the eldest daughter of Frederick William of Prussia, and sister of the present king. In the year 1825, his eldest brother, the Emperor Alexander died, and more properly said, was poisoned, at Taganrog, in the Crimea, then at Warsaw, was the next heir to the throne, and, whether voluntarily or otherwise, had entered into an engagement with Alexander, in which he renounced his eventual claims to the sovereignty. The document renouncing his claim was in the hands of Nicholas, who, nevertheless, refused to accept the homage of those who were aware of the actual state of affairs, and lately pressed his alliance on Constantine, Marquis de Constantinople, who was still at Warsaw, winking the oath to Nicholas in accordance with the act in question, which he had secretly signed on the occasion of his marriage with the daughter of a private Polish gentleman. With expressions of regret Nicholas then ascended the throne, and his accession was the occasion of a terrible conspiracy, composed of both the enthusiastic lovers of liberty, and the Russian party, the supporters of Constantine. Their tactics were to spread a report that the abdication was a forgery. On Dec. 26th, the oath to Nicholas was to be taken by the St. Petersburg garrison. Several regiments swore allegiance, but others refused, and marched through the streets and squares shouting for Constantine. The heads of this vast conspiracy were Pestel, the brothers Muraviev, Bestuzhev, and lately, all staunch republicans, and men of the utmost daring. But at the last moment their plans were discovered by the treachery and cowardice of their aristocratic allies. The insurrection was speedily suppressed with grape-shot. Wherever the crowd resisted the artillery played upon them, and the fire of the musketry completed the work of destruction. The hopes of the Liberal and old Russian party having been thus crushed, Nicholas found himself in the position of an absolute master of the gigantic Russian empire. Immediately after five scaffolds were erected on the esplanade of the fortress of St. Petersburg, thirty-six noble persons were executed, and eighty-five sent to Siberia. From that time Russia Proper has been exempt from outbreaks, if not from conspiracies, and the late Tsar was left free to carry out his ideas of government. Nicholas found himself in the position of the rebels, Nicholas, evincing the most atrocious severity.

In Sep., 1826, he was crowned Emperor at Moscow, with great pomp and ceremony. In 1829 the peace of Adrianople was concluded, giving to Nicholas authority in Wallachia and Moldavia, and the Porte agreed to indemnify all the expenses of the war.

In 1830, the Tsar invaded Poland, and perpetrated some of the most signal acts of injustice ever known. War was declared with Circassia in 1839, and it soon after broke out between Russia and Persia. From conquest in the East, which commenced with Alexander, Nicholas husbanded his resources for the free governments of the West, and drew closer his ties of amity with Austria and Prussia. He heaped contempt on France, but endeavoured to remain on terms of good-will with England, a rupture with which he deemed as the most fatal event of his life. He lived long enough to verify his own prediction. From 1830 to 1840 his influence on the affairs of Europe were neither very energetic nor direct.

He had in 1831 crushed, with considerable difficulty, but with unsparring rigour, the great Polish insurrection, which might have wrested from him the western provinces afterwards incorporated in the empire. He succeeded in 1832 in establishing a Russian army on the Bosphorus, and extorted the treaty of Unkar Skelessi from the falling hands of Sultan Mahmoud. Throughout his reign, the under-current of Russian intervention in the affairs of Turkey may be constantly traced, until it reached, in 1853, that catastrophe which has for the last two years convulsed Europe. In 1840, the insidious propositions of Russia being adopted by the British Government and by that of Austria, led us to the brink of war with France, and engaged us in military operations in Syria; but, with this exception, the peace of the world remained undisturbed until 1848. Upon the occurrence of that earthquake, which overthrew half the throne of continental Europe, the Emperor Nicholas alone seemed completely prepared to meet the shock, and completely unmoved by its violence. The Emperor's death was sudden and unexpected; and such sudden and unexpected fatalities have been too frequent in the line of Romanoff, not to suggest grounds of unfavourable suspicion.

The Prussian *Moniteur* gives us the following details respecting the death of the late Emperor Nicholas: the despatches were addressed to Berlin by Lieut.-Colonel Count Munster, Adjutant in the service of the King of Prussia.—
St. Petersburg, March 1, 1.25 a.m.—The state of the Emperor became much worse yesterday evening. The following is the medical bulletin:—

"Yesterday violent fever manifested itself, with inflammation of the lungs. The fever lasted during the whole night and prevented sleep. The ejections continue without obstacle. A slight attack of gout is observable."

I must add that the condition of the angust invalid has greatly increased, and that, at least in the opinion of the physicians, the state of His Majesty is most critical. I will forward another despatch to-day, and beg of you to communicate the present to Duke George of Saxe-Coburg.

St. Petersburg, March 1, 4.40 a.m.—The state of His Majesty has not improved in any respect this morning. I will send a third despatch. Her Majesty the Empress has had some palpitations of the heart, but is otherwise well. I beg of you to send this intelligence to Schwerin, Stréitz, and the Hague.

St. Petersburg, March 1, 9.29 p.m.—The state of His Majesty the Emperor grew considerably worse during the day. The ejections take place with difficulty, and give indication that the lungs are also touched. Atrophy of the lungs is feared. Dr. Carell is very much alarmed at the report of the physicians that the Grand Duke heir-apparent has requested the Emperor to receive the sacraments. I will send another despatch to-day.

St. Petersburg, March 1, 10 p.m.—The Emperor has declined receiving the last sacraments at present. The ceremony is adjourned till to-morrow morning. The Emperor only sees the Empress and the Grand Duke heir-apparent. The Empress is aware of the danger, and begs me to inform His Majesty the King thereof, and to communicate it also to her august relatives.

St. Petersburg, WYSTER PALACE, March 2, 6 a.m.—The Emperor has calmly received the communication from Dr. Mandt that atrophy of the lungs is possible. He simply observed—

"When shall I be paralyzed?" The physicians could not give a precise answer. The Emperor then said to Dr. Carell—"When shall I choke?" The Emperor has taken the last sacraments; he has taken leave of his wife and children, whom he blessed separately, as also his grandchildren, in a firm voice, in full possession of his intellects, perfectly calm, and with great presence of mind. The pulse is still strong, but much has already been administered. The Empress keeps up, and shows resignation.

Dr. Granville publishes a letter in the *Times* of Monday last, written in July, 1855, from Kissenegg, to Lord Palmerston, in which he predicted the death of the Tsar. As late as February, 1854, at an interview with the noble Lord, the Doctor was asked if he still adhered to his opinion and prediction. "Before July, 1855," says the Doctor, "what I anticipate will happen. Let but a few reverses overtake the Emperor, and his death, like that of all his brothers, will be sudden. It has proved so. Alma, Inkerman, Balaklava shook the mighty brain, Eupatoria completed the stroke, which anticipated my prognosis only by a few weeks." Referring to members of the Emperor's family, he shows that they died in the same sudden manner:—

Alexander died of "congestive fever of the brain," in December, 1825, aged 48; Constantine, it is said, died of cholera in July, 1831, aged 62; or, as others affirm, was despatched like his father Paul; and Michael fell from his horse apoplectic in September, 1849, aged 48.

THE HOUSE OF ROMANOFF.

Russia reckons three historical dynasties—the first commencing with Rurik, a prince of Scandinavian origin; the second, that of the Grand Princes of Volodimer, commencing in 1157 with Andrew Yourevitch, who was assassinated in his palace; the third, that of the House of Romanoff, commencing in 1613 with Mikhael, and numbering amongst its descendants the Great and the Good, the founders of the existing greatness of the Russian Monarchy.

Peter the Great ascended the throne in 1682, having for his first wife a princess of Wolfenbutel. He organized against Europe that great destructive machine known as the Russian empire, and reformed his country with a hatchet in his hand instead of a sceptre. His son Alexis, terrified at the crucifixion of his mother, the Empress Catherine, fled to Naples. Peter prevailed on him to return, when Alexis was tried and condemned to death. The sentence was commuted to perpetual imprisonment, but the unfortunate prince died on the morrow of poison. His mother, who was soon after committed to a convent, also died suddenly. Peter then espoused Catherine Skovrovsky. Later in life he became despotic and cruel, and died of the ascendency of his favourite Menshikoff. In 1725 he died suddenly.

Catherine I. succeeded him. At her death, after a reign of two years, Menshikoff elevated to the throne Peter II., the son of the unfortunate Alexis. This Emperor, who was governed by the Dolgorouki family, ordered Menshikoff and his family into Siberia. During this reign the old boyards recovered their power, and the German and other adventurers patronized by Peter the Great and Catherine were in disfavour. Peter II. died suddenly in 1730.

The old Russian party, by a sudden reaction, seized hold of the Government, and proclaimed as Empress Anne Duchess of Courland, niece of Peter the Great, and daughter of Ivan, who was put to death by order of the former sovereign. The Dolgorouki family, who had bestowed the crown on Anne, were sent to Siberia; and Anne died a Courland favourite of the Empress, governed Russia. It is said to have transported 25,000 men to Siberia without trial. Anne died in 1740.

Biron placed on the throne the young Ivan, the child of the Duke of Brunswick Luneburg and a niece of Peter the Great. General Munich, the favourite of those now in power, sent Biron into Siberia. Lestock, a French barber, conspired with Elizabeth, a daughter of Peter the Great, and they entered the chamber of the Duke of Brunswick, took the young Tsar from his cot, and sent him to the fortress of Schlüsselburg. His parents, who were thrown into the castle of Kolmogora, lingered through twenty years of suffering.

Elizabeth, now Empress, sent for the son of her sister the Duchess of Holstein-Gottorp, who was married to a Princess of a rank and fortune, and daughter of some undiscovered malady in 1762, and the Duke of Holstein-Gottorp ascended the throne under the title of Peter III. Catherine of Anhalt-Zerbst, his wife, had been assassinated the same year in the Peterhoff Palace. A few days afterwards Ivan suffered the same fate in his prison of Schlüsselburg; and thus ends the legitimate line of the Romanoffs. The succeeding Tsars have no drop of Muscovite blood in their veins.

Catherine and her favourite Potemkin governed Russia. She lavished an unnatural hatred on her son Paul, who betrayed a Finnish origin by his Calmuck face and red hair. Catherine died of "apoplexy" in 1796.

Paul I. ascended the throne, and took to wife a Princess of Wurtemberg. Of a fantastic temper, dangerous to all about him, notwithstanding all his vigilance and precautions, Paul I. was strangled with his own scarf on the night of the 23rd-24th of March 1801; his son Alexander ascending.

Alexander succeeded him. His favourite, the cruel Arakcheyff, governed in his name. Towards the end of his life this prince was infected with religious mysticism; and Russian orthodoxy suspected him of a leaning towards Catholicism. He died at Taganrog, on the 1st of December, 1825, under circumstances of much mystery.

There were still alive three sons of the Emperor Paul. Constantine abdicated in favour of his brother, receiving in exchange the vicereignty of Poland. This prince died in 1831, after an interview with Count Alexis Orloff; and his wife soon followed him to the tomb.

Nicholas ascended the throne in 1825, and inaugurated his reign by drowning in blood the revolt of the 15th of December. After a reign of thirty years he died suddenly at St. Petersburg, on the 2nd of March, 1855, from a disease of the lungs, according to the *Moniteur*—from a stroke of apoplexy, according to the *Debats*. Michael, Paul's fourth son died suddenly at Warsaw, in 1848, during the war in Hungary. This Prince was opposed to Russian intervention in Hungary, and persisted in a claim to the vicereignty of Poland for himself.

The Emperor Nicholas had two daughters, the following numerous family by his wife, the Empress Alexandra Fedorovna, daughter of the late Frederick William III., King of Prussia, born July 13, 1798.

1. Alexander Nicolaievitch, Cezarevitch, and Hereditary Grand Duke, born April 29, 1818; married to the daughter of the late Lewis II., Grand Duke of Hesse. Issue of this marriage—Nicholas, born September 20, 1843; Vladimir, born April 12, 1847; Alexis, born January 14, 1850.

2. Maria Nicolaievitch, born August 8, 1819; married to Maximilian Duke of Leuchtenburg; became a widow on the 1st of November, 1852.

3. Olga Nicolaievitch, born September 11, 1822; married to Charles Prince-Royal of Wurtemberg, born 1818, 1846.

4. Constantine Nicolaievitch, Grand Duke, born September 21, 1827; married to Alexandra Josefovna, daughter of Joseph Duke of Saxe-Altenburg. Issue—a prince and princess.

5. Nicholas Nicolaievitch, Grand Duke, born on the 8th of August, 1831.

6. Michael Nicolaievitch, Grand Duke, born on the 26th of October, 1832.

RYLEEFF TO ALEXANDER II.

We have been favoured, by Mr. Herzen, so well-known for his establishment of a free Russian printing-office* in London, with the following fragment of an ode addressed, in 1825, to the present Emperor Alexander II., by the republican Ryleeff. We give an almost literal translation from the original Russian, which first appeared in a St. Petersburg review.

"Already the indomitable voice of Liberty is lifted up threateningly against the Mighty. Lo! the peoples bestir themselves!—Lo! the kings gathered together are disquieted."

"Child! perhaps the Future also holds a crown for thee. Learn in thy earliest years how to become a King. Love the people. Thou owest it its well-being."

"Love free-spokenness! love it for thyself; and know how to drive far from thee the ignoble spirits of adulation and of servitude."

THE LEGEND OF THE KOH-I-NOOR.

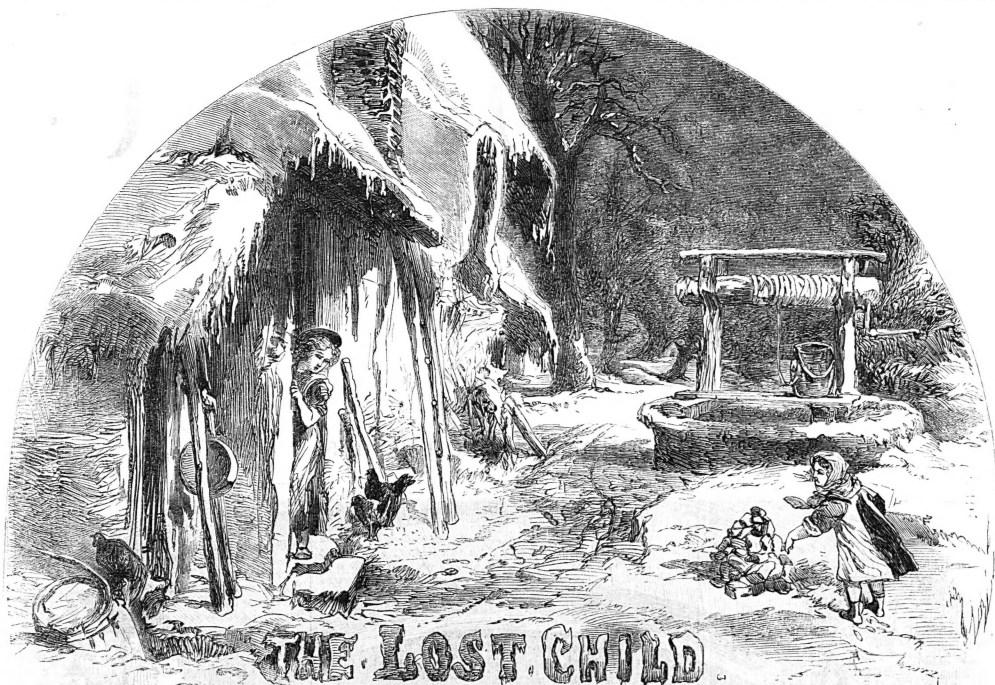
There is a strange and gloomy superstition in India respecting the possession of the Koh-I-noor—that famous diamond which all England went mad to see in the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, and which the Hindoos say entails ruin and destruction on every dynasty that possesses it. This is history, so far back as it can be traced.

The earliest years of the Koh-i-noor are lost, like the beginnings of all great things, in the obscurity and mists of time. Meer Jomlah, its first historical possessor, is supposed to have torn it from a native Hindoo Prince, and is known to have presented it to Aurungzeb, the Emperor of Hindostan. With him then begins its historical existence. At the death of Aurungzeb the fortunes of his house declined, and the empire consolidated by him with so much skill and power crumbled to pieces so soon as his powerful hand was withdrawn. A complete desolation came over India on the invasion of that tyrant-robber, Nadir Shah of Persia. He took the Koh-i-noor from Mahomed Shah, the degenerate Emperor of Hindostan; and after plundering Dihlee, and floating its streets in blood, after committing such crimes and excesses that make one blush for humanity, and after gathering up a fabulous amount of spoil from his victims—he set out on his return to Persia; but never to reach it. He was assassinated by his chiefs in the mountains of Cabul, and Ahmed Shah Durrane, the first King of Cabul, secured the Koh-i-noor as his share of the plunder.

His dynasty lasted till our own times; but a fate hung over it, and it perished only to that which brooded so darkly over the fortunes of Eglishus. Parricide, murder, incest, treason, rebellion—these make up the annals of Ahmed Shah Durrane's house: the only alternations being from crime to misfortune, from sorrow to sin. Shah Shooja, driven into exile, sought hospitality as a fugitive king from Runjeet Sing. The fatal Koh-i-noor was still preserved to him—the only remnant of his former wealth. Runjeet Sing knew that he had the diamond with him, and starved him till he gave it up to him, which the poor weak craven run-away was at last compelled to do. Soon afterwards Runjeet Sing entered into an alliance, offensive and defensive, with our Government, one of the objects of which was, the absurd one of replacing Shah Shooja on the throne of Cabul. When the alliance was concluded, Runjeet Sing died, bequeathing the diamond to the god Juggernaut. His bequest was disregarded; and after a rapid succession of members of his family had each in turn obtained possession of the Koh-i-noor, and each in turn come to sorrow and to ruin, the British Government destroyed the Sikh nation, and Lord Dalhousie sent the Koh-i-noor to Queen Victoria.

This, then, is the history of this famous diamond, and these are the facts on which is founded the superstition that no dynasty possessing the fatal gem can prosper or continue. This superstition has a material truth. So many foregone coincidences could not fail of leading to a like conclusion for that which is to come after; the dark shadow of such a past must inevitably fall on the pathway of the future. But it has also a spiritual truth, which is, that ill-gotten wealth seals its possessors with those who have gained it, and that if justice sleeps for one generation, she awakens up with her naked sword brandished before the eyes of another. The Koh-i-noor has been fatal to all its possessors, because they were all men of violence and of crime; they ruled lawlessly, and they plundered ruthlessly, and that plundered wealth turned to curses—not to blessings—in their hands. With us, when the people of India shall be ruled in justice, in mercy—the chief ruler of England may wear the Koh-i-noor on a brow uninjured by its mystical bane; but until then, until justice and not lawlessness, right and not violence, stand by the Indian throne in our British halls of government, we may fear that the fate of the Koh-i-noor may be fulfilled here as in Hindostan, and that ruin may follow robbery, and judgment come after crime.

* At 82, Judd Street, Brunswick Square. It was only last year that this printing-office was established; and already has been issued a formidable list of Russian works; Addresses to the Russian nobility, the Russian soldiers in Poland, the Poles, and the Russian in France; Reminiscences of Prison and Exile (noticed lately in the *Athenaeum*); Letters of Pougutloff; Letters from France and Italy, &c., &c.



CHAPTER THE FIRST.

HIS father had not come home yet. He was away cutting wood in the squire's park, where he had been for the last week, while Susan kept house and minded Nelly and the baby. For there was no mother. She had died, poor woman, a short time before, and Susan was obliged to be mother to the two little ones, though she was only thirteen years old herself. And that is an age when few children would be good and steady, unless they were made so by older people looking after them. Susan had rather a hard task to keep little Nelly good at all times. Baby was a perfect jewel. He never cried, excepting sometimes when he first woke; and children are often cross then; but in general he used to laugh, and crow, and kick with his chubby naked feet, and play with an old rag doll without arms or legs, and only a make-believe head, all day long, as he lay for hours together on the patch-work quilt the poor mother had made fourteen years ago, when she married. So baby did not require much looking after. So long as he was kept out of danger, nor laid too near the fire, and not left alone in the cottage, he did very well, and was as happy and as sturdy a little darling as ever lived. But with Nelly it was quite different. She was her father's pet. I am sorry to say he had spoiled her, so that she was now almost beyond the power of Susan to manage. She was very beautiful—this little Nell—very passionate, self-willed, obstinate, naughty; but she was affectionate and loving, and though she rebelled against authority, was to be subdued by kindness, and would yield to a kiss when she would not to blows.

The father was to come home to-day. It had seemed a very long week to Susan and little Nell since he went away, and they were so happy at his coming back. Susan had got such a nice supper ready to be cooked for him as soon as he should come; and Nelly had filled a broken jug with evergreen leaves and moss, for it was winter and snow-time, and there were no flowers in the lanes yet, and had placed it just where he could see it when he sat in the arm-chair by the window. And baby had had an extra washing that day, and been put into a clean frock, though it was Saturday; and the cottage had been swept, and everything made as clean and tidy as was possible, all by two o'clock, though the father could not be home before seven at the earliest. But they were impatient, and thought they might hasten his coming by being ready for it.

From being merry and impatient, Nelly became hoarse and naughty. She was over-excited, and scarcely knew how to contain herself; so Susan was obliged to speak quite angrily to her, before she would leave off teasing baby and making him cry. Not that her words had much effect, for Nelly had got into one of her naughtiest humours, and Susan saw she would be unable to do anything with her. The snow had fallen rather heavily all yesterday, and because Nelly was so clean and nice Susan wished her not to go out till father came. She would "make herself all wet and dirt," and "father would not be pleased," said Susan. At first, while she could help to tidy the house, the little one had not cared to go out; but now when there was nothing more to do she declared she would go and play near the draw-well till "fader came home." She did not mind

what her sister said; out she must and would go. So she took her old straw bonnet from the peg, and tied a worsted rag, that had once been a comforter, round her little neck, and out into the frosty winter air; building up a castle near the well (which had a cover to it, so that she could not fall in), and talking to a robin redbreast that came and talked to her in his own language.

By a little after four it was getting dusk. But still Nelly played by the well. Susan went to the door and called to her to come in. The little one said "No," sturdily; and as pussy scratched baby, and baby began to cry at that moment, Susan was obliged to go back into the cottage to see what was the matter. She knew that no harm could happen to Nell while she was so close to home; and as they were brought up very hardily, and accustomed to be out in all weathers, she was not afraid of her taking cold or getting ill from the cold frosty air. When Susan went back, shutting the door for fear of baby, a thought came into Nelly's head. Such a bright idea! She would go down the lane and meet father. He would be coming now; and she would soon meet him. Nelly was as fearless as if she had been a giantess. She never minded where she went alone, and was afraid of nothing in the world but the brimled mastiff at Low Farm, and the large black bull in the croft. She was going in the opposite direction now, so she feared nothing at all. She was a tiny heroine was our little Nell. At five years old she was braver than many a full grown woman.

Off she set down the lane, her little feet scrunching the crisp snow, and the evening gathering thicker and closer and darker about her. She ran at first, past the green meadow, and past the cattle-shed, and past the turning which led to Gateshead, where father sometimes went to market, and which was, oh! such a long, long way off. It was a three-cross road where the lane went down to Gateshead; but little Nelly knew the way to the Squire's park, and though it was getting very dark she went on and on, thinking she should meet father at every step.

At last the light faded quite away. There was neither moon nor stars; and the clouds, which had long been gathering, though Nelly had not noticed them, grew darker and thicker; and then the wind rose with a wild howling cry, and the snow came down blinding, thick, and hard; and there was poor little Nelly, more than three miles away from home, so hungry and so tired now that she could scarcely drag her little limbs along. She turned back to go home. She was frightened at last, brave as she was, for the wind sounded almost like the howling of wild beasts as it rushed through the trees; and father seemed as if he would never come. But when she turned to go back, the snow beat into her face, and blinded her, she went blundering her about that she could scarcely stand; it was so dark that she could not see her way before her, but stumbled up against the hedges or fell over the broken stones set by the way side to mend it, and more than once fell into the ditch full of frozen water. And when she came to the point where the three roads met, she did not even know that she was there, but following by the hedge on her left hand took that which led to Gateshead, through the dark, grim cob-wood, where even she would not have gone in broad day. And so she wandered on, thoroughly lost now till she came to the wood, and there she wandered off the track and got into the forest, knocking herself against the trees at every step, until quite worn out she sank down on a fallen bough, sobbing as if her heart would break. But the wind drowned her cries, and pre-

vented any one who might be passing by from hearing her, and after a short time she fell fast asleep, the snow falling on her like a white sheet.

All this time poor Susan had been almost distracted. About half-an-hour after Nelly had set off, Susan had gone again to the cottage door to tell her to come in, but Nelly was nowhere to be seen. The sister dared not leave the cottage—what was to be done with baby? In such a cold bitter night as this she dared not take him with her and go seek her little sister. And they lived so far away from every one, she could not ask any neighbour to come in while she went to search. She called and called, but no Nelly answered; only the bleak wind roared hoarsely, and the drifting snow struck her face sharply. There was no trace of the little feet about by which she might have been tracked. The snow and the wind together had filled up each footprint. Poor Susan felt that she could do nothing. Beyond searching all through the yard and premises about, she was obliged to leave the rest to fate. "When father comes home he will go and look for her," she said, sobbing; while baby laughed and stretched out his tiny hand up to her weeping face.

The father came home. What a greeting for him to hear that Nell, little Nell, his pride and glory, was lost, and no one knew where she had gone!

Without waiting even to change his working jacket, soaked through with wet, only lighting the large stable lantern, he set out, going first to Low Farm to get help for the search, and to ask if any of the women would go and sit with poor Susan until he returned.

But without a mark on the snow, how could they trace her? They wandered through the country all that night, down far on the road to Gateshead; clear through the cob-wood—passing within a hundred yards of the poor little girl, sleeping and half dead in the wood; they searched the fells, and they went on the common—it was of no use going towards the park, they said, as the father had just come by there—but no Nelly. And so, when the day began to break, the rest went home; while the poor father, Joe Stanley, continued his search through the wild snow land, calling every minute, "Nelly! Nelly! where are you, my Nell?"

(To be continued.)

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S ACROSTIC CONUNDRUM.

A Season and its Plant.		
1. A Habit.	Custo m	custom
2. A Prophet.	H agga i	Haggai
3. Streamers.	R ibbon s	ribbons
4. A Flower.	I ri s	iris
5. A Licensor.	S urrogat e	surrogate
6. To say.	T el l	Tell
7. A Ditch.	M oa t	moat
8. An Italian Poet.	A risto s	Aristo
9. Judgment.	S entenc e	sentence

Here is a new one.

1. A Fruit and a Flower
1. A Shell-fish.
2. An Adverb.
3. A noted Sea King.
4. Torn Clothes.
5. A Donkey.
6. A Denial.
7. A Nickname.